

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

After Warnock  
Genetic manipulation is  
a threat to the family,  
argues the Chief Rabbi



Enemies within  
Woodrow Wyatt on the  
power of party rebels in  
Parliament

A great act  
The tradition of amateur  
drama, from the  
inspiration to the ovation

Going in for the kill  
The Wallabies, with the  
grand slam behind them,  
now aim to humble the  
Barbarians

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mrs Judith Paul, who lives in Horsham, West Sussex. Portfolio list, page 22; how to play, information service, back page.

## Beatles win legal battle with EMI

The Beatles have won their High Court dispute with EMI and may receive up to £4 million in underpaid royalties and interest from some of their earliest songs. Page 3

## NHS chief

The chairman of the newly created National Health Service management board is to be Mr Victor Paine, at present chairman of the Port of London Authority. Page 2

## M40 decision

Work on extending the M40 will begin in 1987, the Government announced. But environmental doubts remain over 11 miles of the route. Page 2



## Kasparov win

Gary Kasparov, challenger in the Moscow world chess championship, won his first game yesterday when the titleholder, Anatoly Karpov, phoned through his resignation in the 32nd game after an overnight adjournment. Page 7

## President held

President Haddada of Mauritania, overthrown in his absence on Wednesday, flew home to Nouakchott and was immediately arrested.

## Britain accused

A second Briton, Alan Russell, a Suffolk teacher, appeared in a Libyan court, to face five charges, one security-related. Page 6

Leader page, 13  
Letters: On science research, from Sir James Gowans, FRSE; North London Polytechnic, from Lady Cox and others; embryo research, from Dr R. Newell.

Leading articles: Gorbachev visit; Multi fibres; Lorry sizes. Features, pages 10-12  
The US way to job creation; Mitterrand's quest for new ideas; Washington's high-level feud; Philip Howard runs McHedder to earth; Spectrum: squels to the Harrods bomb.

Friday Page: Rajiv Gandhi's Italian wife.  
Obituary, page 14  
Sir William McKie, Grafti Ehrick.

Metropolitan counties  
As the Local Government Bill to abolish the GLC passes through Parliament, a Special Report examines the role of the metropolitan counties, which also face abolition.

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# Thatcher praises record to rekindle backbench support

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher set out last night to persuade her divided backbench supporters that despite current troubles the Government was out-performing the previous Conservative administration elected in 1979.

Output, inflation, profits and productivity were all greatly improved by comparison with the situation after the first 18 months of her first term as Prime Minister. Unemployment was not rising so fast.

In her two-yearly speech to the Conservative 1922 Committee, delivered privately in a Westminster committee room, Mrs Thatcher agreed with the committee's newly elected chairman, Mr Stanley Onslow, that communications between ministers and other ranks in the party might well be improved. She came near to asking for unity when wishing her followers a Happy Christmas and a "United New Year".

Mr Onslow, presiding for the first time, welcomed the Prime Minister by saying that good communications were essential to effective government - communications between an MP and his constituency supporters and equally between a government and its backbenchers. The committee was most anxious to maintain the best possible exchange of ideas at all levels and to improve these exchanges in anyway possible, he said.

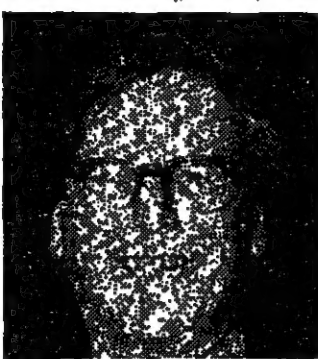
with constitutional Bills on the Commons floor.

She said nothing about the topics which in recent weeks have roused Conservative MPs against their leaders: student grant, overseas aid, the Local Government Bill to abolish the Greater London Council and Metropolitan county councils. But she went quickly to the argument which has gripped the party about the determination of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the Prime Minister's backing, to make room for cuts in direct personal taxation in the next budget.

Higher tax was no part of Conservative philosophy, she said. It killed enterprise and initiative. There was a need to raise tax thresholds on grounds of equity, since 12 million tax payers were earning £8,000 a year or less, and six million less than £5,000.

A man and wife with two children could be better off without work, unless their earnings came to £130 a week. "They cannot look to a Socialist government, they look to us to do more for them."

Mrs Thatcher addressed the argument put even by some of her ministers that more public investment would be the best way of reducing unemployment.



Mr Onslow

## Ministers play down MPs' revolt over GLC

By Anthony Bevis and Hugh Clayton

Disappointed senior ministers expect the House of Lords to give the controversial Local Government Bill a much rougher ride as a result of a collapse in the Government's majority early yesterday morning.

In a key vote on a Tory backbench amendment to replace the GLC with another directly-elected authority after a Commons select committee inquiry, the Government beat the coalition of opponents by 233 votes to 210, a record low majority of 23.

Embarrassed ministers tried to play down the extent of the backbench rebellion yesterday saying that there had been larger revolts since last year's election. It was said that 17 Tories had voted against the Government, a dozen had deliberately abstained and two had acted as tellers for the rebels.

Nevertheless, the collapse of the majority was a disappointment for Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, and although the rebels refused to give any figures for those absent without leave it is thought that as many as 30 had been unaccounted for on the night.

The fact remains that hostile peers will seize the narrowness of the Government majority - down from an opposition to the abolition of a directly-elected authority for London.

That hazard was recognized last night by ministers. If only because the House of Lords has established a vigorous resistance to rubber-stamping measures which have only survived the Commons because of the Government's landslide majority.

London should have a directly-elected council of no more than 40 members after the abolition of the GLC, Mr Alan Greenberg, leader of the GLC's Conservative minority, said yesterday. The new council should have a Londonwide strategic role in planning, the arts and emergency services with a much smaller staff and budget than the GLC.

He made it clear at county hall that Tories there wanted

## TUC seeks pit peace amid scepticism

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The latest peace initiative in the 40-weeks old pit strike gets under way this morning amid mounting scepticism among the key parties to the dispute.

Leaders of the Trades Union Congress will urge Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to authorize the National Coal Board to negotiate a new Plan for Coal with the National Union of Mine-workers to bring up to date the 1974 programme for the industry.

The "elder statesmen" of the Labour movement regard this as the most promising avenue towards a settlement of the strike, but their optimism is not wholly shared by the principal combatants.

Mr Ian McGregor, chairman of the Coal Board, said yesterday: "I am not a party to discussions but I doubt if they will lead to anything."

But there has got to be something new to say and Mr Scargill (Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM President) keeps on repeating the standard formula. I have not seen or heard anything which makes me think they have got anything new to offer."

Mr McGregor's comments came after a meeting of the union's national executive committee in Sheffield which gave a unanimous but cautious welcome to the TUC initiative.

Mr Peter Heathfield, general Secretary of the union, said: "In December 1984, we must question the relevance of the declaration on March 6 by the National Coal Board to close 20 pits in the present financial year, which expires in less than four months' time. It seems to us no longer relevant and we hope that they could accept this."

The union insists that its change in bargaining strategy towards acceptance that the coal board should "not proceed with" the proposal to shut down four million tonnes of capacity rather than "completely withdraw this plan is a genuine concession. But up to now it has been regarded by the coal board as no more than a cosmetic shift."

Mr Michael McGahey, vice-president of the union, who chaired yesterday's executive meeting in the absence of Mr Scargill, who was answering a charge of obstruction at Rotherham Magistrates' Court, said: "We welcome the TUC's decision to take this initiative. We hope it is fruitful."

The miners' leaders expect to have talks with the TUC's

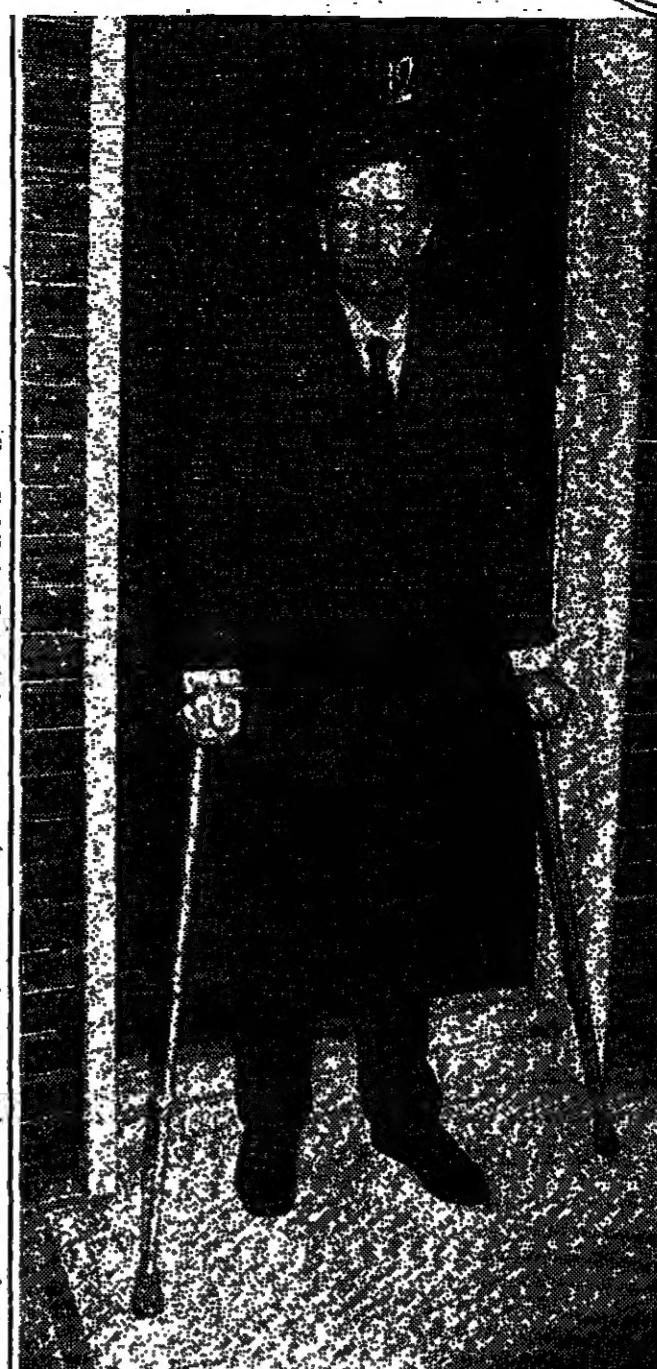
Continued on back page, col 1

## ICI to pay \$750m for US chemicals company

ICI is to pay \$370 million (£625 million) in cash for Beatrice Chemicals, an American company which is worth \$155 million, David Young, Energy Correspondent, writes.

Beatrice is one of the leading specialty chemical companies in the world and last year made profits of \$63 million on turnover of \$440 million. The acquisition is expected to be completed in the first quarter of next year.

Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, said yesterday that the acquisition would put ICI



Back to work: Mr John Wakeham, the Government Chief Whip, leaving his office in Downing St yesterday for the Commons where he returned to his seat two months and a day after he was severely injured in the IRA bomb attack on the Cabinet in the Grand Hotel, Brighton.

At about 3.10 pm, five minutes before Prime Minister's question time, Mr Wakeham entered the Commons chamber from the Member's Lobby on crutches, and made his way steadily, and assisted, to his seat at the end of the Government front-bench.

Conservative MPs, and the majority of the Opposition, stood, cheered and waved their order papers to salute the bravery of the man who lost his wife in the blast. He was also welcomed by deputy leader Roy Hattersley.

Mr Hattersley told Mr Wakeham that his presence personified the triumph of democracy over terrorism. (Photograph: Bill Warren/Parliament, page 4)

## Police may act over BT stags

By Alison Eadie

Organized groups of would-be stags, who put in hundreds of applications for shares in British Telecom, have had cheques worth £850,000 cashed, although they have received no shares. They may also face fraud charges.

The Department of Trade and Industry has called in the police on a few cases of multiple application. The BT prospectus strictly stipulated one share application per person.

Fewer than 10 groups have been uncovered, although the number of individuals is not known. The application forms were often filled in with false names. The £850,000 is now in a special account at the Bank of England, said a spokesman for the DoT, said it would be paid back to the applicants eventually.

Several of the multiple applicants, seeing their cheques had been cashed and thinking they had been allocated shares, did the classical stag action - they sold in the stockmarket to make a quick killing, before waiting for the allocation letter to arrive. They discovered when allocation letters were posted on Monday that they have no shares and will have to buy back the shares they have sold in a steadily rising market.

Kleinwort, Benson, the merchant bank handling the issue, and the accounting firm Peat Marwick Mitchell had devised a system for weeding out multiple applications. Smaller scale multiples were simply thrown out, but a decision was taken to cash the cheques of organized groups who were trying to cheat the system in a big way.

## Warnings ignored in Bhopal

From Trevor Fishlock Bhopal

Men who worked at the Union Carbide plant here watched with bitterness and frustration yesterday as thousands more people joined the exodus from the city.

"We told everyone this disaster would happen," factory union officials said. "We warned the company, the state government and the people of Bhopal that there were leaks, bad maintenance and bad safety procedures. But all our warnings fell on deaf ears."

As if to emphasize what they said, a local newspaper reproduced a poster the union pasted up on walls all over the city two years ago. It said: "Warning - save yourselves from death. The lives of hundreds of thousands of people are in danger. The factory is making gas but does not use safety measures."

The Union Carbide workers' union printed 6,000 of the posters as part of its campaign to draw attention to leaks and what it saw as inadequate safety measures. It started the campaign after a man was killed by leaking phosgene gas three years ago. Shortly after that about 30 workers were affected by leaking phosgene.

Mr Hathim Jarwala, the union's president, said that workers felt there would be a disaster if nothing was done. The union approached the Labour Ministry of Madhya Pradesh state and the Chief Minister of the state, but no action was taken. He complained that Union Carbide had the state government "under its thumb" and broke labour laws with impunity.

Mr Jagdish Gupta, the union

## US judge refuses to extradite IRA killer

From Christopher Thomas Washington

A United States federal judge yesterday rejected a British request to extradite a convicted IRA murderer, ruling that the killing was a political act exempt from the US-British extradition treaty.

John Patrick Thomas Doherty escaped from prison in Belfast in June 1981, two days before a judge found him guilty of murder, attempted murder, possession of illegal weapons and membership of the proscribed IRA.

District Judge John Sprizzo, ruling in New York, said: "The facts of this case present the assertion of the political-offence exception (of the extradition treaty) in its most classic form." The ruling means that Doherty will be allowed to remain in America, at least for now.

It is the third time that extradition of IRA men has been rejected by American courts. In August 1981 a New York court refused to extradite Desmond Mackin, who was wanted in connection with the attempted murder of British soldier in Belfast in 1978. He was subsequently deported to the Irish Republic because he was an illegal immigrant.

In May 1979 a California court refused to extradite Peter McKelvey, who was wanted in connection with an attempted murder. British authorities alleged he had admitted involvement in the bombing of a British Army target in Ripon, Yorkshire, in 1974, and also in an attack on Palace Barracks, Belfast, in 1972.

In the latest case, Doherty admitted that he was among a group of IRA gunmen who took over a Belfast house on May 2, 1980, planning to ambush a British Army convoy. The house was approached three or four hours later by five members of the Army's Special Air Service. Shots were exchanged. Killing Captain Herbert Richard Westmacott of the SAS, Doherty was captured.

The judge ruled: "The death of Captain Westmacott, while a most tragic event, occurred in the context of an attempted ambush of a British Army patrol. It was the British Army's response to that action that gave rise to Captain Westmacott's death."

## Pension hint by cautious Lawson

By Our Political Editor

Mr Nigel Lawson said yesterday that there was no need for people to retire prematurely before the Budget because of concern that they would be disadvantaged by tax changes if they retired after it.

This form of words was extracted from him in the Commons by Mr Roy Hattersley after earlier answers had failed to satisfy MPs' afraid that tax-free lump sums, taken in lieu of pension on retirement, would become liable to tax.

The Chancellor began with a formula apparently designed to reassure the pensions industry and people approaching retirement. Asked about rumours that jump sums would be taxed, he said that no Chancellor could confirm or deny rumours about the contents of his next Budget. "But I can assure the House that there is no need for anyone to retire early on account of such rumours."

MPs pressed him to say if pensions would be affected by a change in the tax treatment of contributions or of investment fund income. Mr Lawson was unwilling to go further.

Mr Robert McCrindle, Conservative MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said it would help if he could say that any change in the tax situation would apply only to membership of pension schemes which began after his Budget was presented. Mr Lawson would not say.

Mr Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing, welcomed his condemnation of retrospective, and asked: "Would it not be retrospective if changes were made in a future taxation of lump sum pensions with relation to contributions which have been made in the past?"

Mr Lawson said he was not sure quite what Mr Higgins meant, but he thought the answer was "yes".

Mr Hattersley said that what caused the uncertainty was the fear, not of retrospective, but that new regulations would be applied to the period after the Budget. The Chancellor should end the uncertainty.

Dr Donagh McDonald, a Labour Treasury spokesman, said that Mr Lawson's prevarication had served to create more insecurity. Parliament, page 4

## MEPs reject EEC budget

Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday threw out the £15,500 million EEC budget for next year by 319 votes to five with 16 abstentions (writes Ian Murray).

This means that the new European Commission will take over without a budget at a time when costs are rising and difficult negotiations to bring Spain and Portugal into the community should be nearing an end.

MEPs explained that they could not pass the budget because it only provided funds for the first ten months of the year. They were not prepared to accept an assurance from member states that extra money would be agreed before October.

Until a new budget, which satisfies the parliament, is put forward, the community will have to survive on monthly payments broadly equivalent to the amount spent this year. Budget thrown out, page 6

# The Port of Kings

**GRAHAM'S**  
Late Bottled Vintage  
**1978**  
PORT  
OPORTO  
Produced in Portugal  
Imported by  
H. J. B. Graham & Co.  
BOTTLED IN BRILLIANT CONDITION

## Rising profits send boardroom salaries soaring

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

Britain's boardroom salaries, boosted by long-awaited increases in industrial profitability, are outstripping nearly every other wage rate in the economy, and rose in the past year by almost 11 per cent.

A survey of 5,500 directors published today by the Institute of Directors and Reward Regional Surveys, shows that the average director earns £22,500 basic salary and total pay of £25,000, although some earned nearly £90,000. In addition, he will have a company car, most likely a Rover, and the usual fringe benefits of pension, life insurance and private health insurance.

The biggest increases have been enjoyed by executive chairmen - on average 21.4 per cent in the year - and the gap between the board and the remainder of company managements has grown. Managers received average pay rises in the past year of 6.6 per cent.

The report's message for the ambitious, young, high flying manager or director is that he should be earning £22,000 by the age of 30 if he is to be one the "fast track" in the London area. Figures of £12,000 in 1980 and £16,500 in 1983 look "positively antique" when viewed from London, the report says.

### DIRECTORS' PAY

	TOTAL	MEDIAN
Full-time Directorship	97,013	44,132
Chairman	88,280	43,000
Other directors	87,500	32,500
Part-time Directorships	47,500	37,500

"The view from Birmingham, Sheffield and Glasgow is rather different. Even in Aberdeen, when it kept to fame as a tarfish base, the increase in salaries based on North Sea oil did not match the recent explosion for high fliers in London."

It is forecast that the London figure will rise next year to £26,250, of which a quarter is bonuses. The increases show

how inflationary and competitive the market for the best directors has become, according to the survey.

"It is hardly surprising that companies are looking at option schemes with their built-in golden handcuffs as one method of reducing salary escalation in this area."

The best salary prospects are in financial and information businesses, up to an average of £27,500 next year, compared with £18,000 in low-technology manufacturing.

Amalgamations of industries in the past 30 years have tended to give executives a salary premium of up to 40 per cent but there are signs, says the report, that differentials are

closing and that newer, small companies are the trend setters.

Next year's forecast for average salary rises is 6 per cent, but 28 per cent of the smaller firms, particularly those with a turnover of less than £1 million, are expecting increases of 10 per cent.

On car-buying policy, less than a third of companies say they buy only British models, compared with 42 per cent last year. Twenty per cent of chairman drive a Jaguar or Daimler, but 12 per cent prefer a Mercedes.

Managing directors also favour Jaguars. Director Rewards, Reward Regional Survey, 1, Mill Street, Storr, Staffordshire ST15 8BA; £100.



## TUC seeks benefits boost in Budget

By David Felton  
Labour Correspondent

The Trades Union Congress yesterday launched the first salvo in what promises to be a concerted union campaign to influence next spring's Budget.

The unions will argue for a £2.3 billion injection of public funds to increase benefits paid to what they regard as underprivileged groups: families, the unemployed, pensioners and those on low incomes.

Leaders of the TUC argued yesterday that the cost of the programme could easily be met if Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, dropped his plans for £1.5 billion worth of tax cuts in the Budget and from the contingency reserve.

The unions' proposals come on top of a programme drawn up earlier this year to improve the infrastructure of the country through the injection of £6 billion over the next five years. Mr Norman Williams, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday that the Budget submission was closely allied to the need to boost public spending on capital projects and reduce unemployment.

The TUC is calling for an increase in the single person's retirement pension of £9.80p a week to £45.60 and for a married couple a £16 a week increase to £73.30.

The TUC wants increased spending on the unemployed's long term supplementary benefit. The proposals are mainly aimed at ensuring that child benefit payments are universally available and not means tested. The TUC also is calling for an increase in child benefit payments of £3 a week, taking the payment to £9.85.

## Port chief to be £70,000 head of health service management

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The chairman of the newly-created National Health Service management board, whose job, in the words of the Griffiths report, will be "general manager, chief officer or director general" of the health service, is to be Mr Victor Paige, chairman of the Port of London Authority.

He will be paid £70,000 a year, making him the highest paid civil servant after Mr Anthony Wilson, the new head of the Government Accounting Service. His post will be at Second Permanent Secretary level. Sir Kenneth Stowe, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health, earns £42,750.

Mr Paige, aged 59, has the job from January 2 on a three-year contract. He worked with Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, when he was Secretary of State for

Transport, as deputy chairman of the National Freight Consortium during its employee buy-out.

Mr Paige said he was "committed to the success of the NHS. I do care about the health service. I do want to make it more effective and efficient and I will do my damndest to achieve that."

The health service, he said, could not be judged in conventional business terms, "in this case about consumers," "in this case a critical group called patients". The job was about "improving the quality of patient care".

Mr Paige said he was among the 8 per cent of the population who have private health insurance - Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, does not - and intended to continue to pay for it personally.

He hoped people would not see that undermining his commitment to the health service. "It is not an unusual feature in the world these days, and I do have a commitment to the NHS," he said. His granddaughter had been born recently in a health service hospital.



Mr Paige

M40 route announced

## New road dispute looms

By Hugh Clayton  
Local Government Correspondent

The M40 is to be extended through almost 50 miles of prime countryside between Oxford and Birmingham at a cost of £200 million. The remains doubt about the route of the most environmentally-sensitive section.

All but 11 miles south of Warwick will be built on the route chosen by ministers in 1981. But they have postponed a decision about the southernmost section, near Oxford.

Their 1981 choice slices between the butterfly haunts at Drunkard's Corner and Polcat End and across the flat farmland of Otmoor. It also crosses a field which Friends of the Earth has sold in tiny patches to buyers the world over in the hope of thwarting the plan.

Otmoor gave Lewis Carroll inspiration for the outdoor chessboard which Alice crosses in *Through the Looking Glass*. But there could be environmental opposition to one alternative eastern route, which passes near a historic duck decoy owned by the National Trust.

The postponement of the decision sets the stage for a battle between two Conservative-led county councils.

Oxfordshire opposed the Otmoor route as strongly as Buckinghamshire rejects the alternative near the duck decoy. But ministers made clear yesterday that argument about nature reserves and beauty spots would not halt the building.

Even if a second inquiry has to be held, construction will start in 1987. Most of the road will follow the 1981 route, starting near Warwick, passing west of Banbury and joining the present M40 east of Oxford.

The new road is intended to relieve the southernmost section of the M1 from London and to provide a better cross-country route between the Channel ports and the Midlands.

The Government said yesterday that Mr Leonard Vincent, the inspector at a nine-month public inquiry, had recommended strongly that the road be built away from Otmoor and the butterfly reserve of Bernwood Forest.

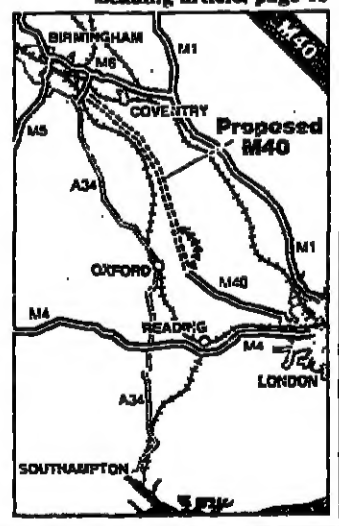
"Many people have urged us to get on with this route," Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said. "At long last the justification for this link in the national road network has been established."

Mr Fionn Holford-Walker, secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "A second motorway between London and Birmingham is unjustified."

Road hauliers and industrialists welcomed the news yesterday that Mr Ridley was

considering forcing a public inquiry before the Greater London Council could introduce in June its controversial ban on heavy lorries.

Leading article, page 13



## Greenham shooting policy disclosed

By Rodney Cowton  
Defence Correspondent

The detailed rules for armed servicemen setting out when they can open fire against intruders at highly sensitive installations have been disclosed for the first time.

There was a political furor in November last year when Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, refused to give an assurance that protesters breaking into a nuclear installation such as RAF Greenham Common, where cruise missiles are based, would not be shot.

The Ministry of Defence has always refused to discuss the matter but yesterday the "rules of engagement", which are issued, printed on a pink card, to armed guards, were disclosed in the *New Statesman*.

The card is headed: "Rules of engagement for issue on mobilization to servicemen authorized to carry arms and ammunition in the United Kingdom. (It may also be issued in peacetime to those guarding designated vital premises, property and installations.)"

The rules say that firearms may be used only as a last resort, and only after challenging an intruder.

Also, outside Scotland where the law is different, an intruder may be shot while running away if he has already killed or injured someone and there is no other way of making an arrest.

But there is also a special rule - believed to apply specifically to nuclear stores - which operates "only when you have been told by your superior that it applies to a specific property or installation which you are guarding."

This says that a guard may open fire if an intruder "attempts to take possession of that property or installation or to damage or destroy it; and there is no other way of preventing this."

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said it was "shocking to learn that unarmed civilians who are trespassing, even if they are presenting no threat to nuclear weapons, can be shot in the back by British troops."

## Police rule out tighter royal security

By Michael Horsfield

Senior police officers decided yesterday against tightening security around Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at Clarence House after the arrest of a young employee for alleged possession of an offensive weapon.

Mr Boland was arrested in the early hours of Wednesday by a patrolling constable in Page Street, Westminster, about a mile from the royal residence.

He has been released on bail and is to appear at Hammersmith Road magistrates' court on January 3 charged with allegedly possessing an offensive weapon, a knife.

Sale room

## Sotheby's leads Christie's in international market

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's has pulled ahead of Christie's this autumn in the race for new auction business with a 43 per cent increase in international turnover to £202 million. Christie's has reached £151 million, a 20 per cent increase.

The figures are considered to reflect the uncertain period Sotheby's went through during the period when Mr A. Alfred Taubman bought the company in 1983. Vendors, frightened of Sotheby's troubles, dealt with Christie's and Christie's recorded 50 per cent rise in autumn turnover.

£367,000 for manuscript

At Christie's in London yesterday H. P. Kraus, of New York, spent £367,000 (estimate £90,000-£120,000) for two illuminated leaves from an Anglo-Saxon manuscript.

They come from a Gospel Lectionary thought to have been written and illustrated in Canterbury around AD1000. They are possibly the last Anglo-Saxon illustrations available on the market.

At Sotheby's in New York on Wednesday, the manuscript of the last song composed by Richard Strauss, unpublished and hitherto, found a buyer at \$60,500 or £48,400. The song, entitled "Malven", was written as a gift for the Czech opera singer, Maria Jerizita in Montreux in November 1948 and was bought by a private collector.

In London, Christie's underlined that the new interest in Old Master drawings. The collection of Mrs Donald S. Stralen, devoted to the pre-18th century French and Italian drawings, and sent from America for sale, made £647,700.

The Times 'to build on Bicentenary base'

Next year's Bicentenary of The Times would provide a very good opportunity to build an even more solid base for the newspaper over the next 200 years. Mr Duke Hussey, director of Times Newspapers said yesterday. He was confident that as a result the circulation would exceed 500,000 copies a day for the first time in its history.

Mr Hussey was speaking at a press conference to announce plans to celebrate the Bicentenary.

Responding to journalists who questioned the editorial policy and coverage of The



All eyes on Mr Arthur Scargill as he takes a break from the trial.

## Scargill claims arrest a plot

From Peter Davenport  
Rotherham

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, claimed in court yesterday that there had been a deliberate plot to arrest him during mass picketing at the Orgreave coking plant in the early months of the miners' strike.

He also disagreed with the evidence of a senior police officer about events leading to his arrest, on the day after violent confrontations at the works had left 40 policemen and 29 pickets injured. The officer was "certainly not telling the truth", he said.

Mr Scargill was appearing before a stipendiary magistrate at Rotherham, south Yorkshire. He was charged with obstructing a police officer on a picket line at Thimstone Colliery, near Deal, on September 3.

The case was adjourned after the court had been told that an unnamed witness had contacted the defence yesterday morning and wished to give evidence on behalf of Mr Scargill, but could not be in court until today.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Scargill was arrested after ignoring police instructions to move on, while walking at the head of a column of between 70 and 100 striking miners and



Chief Supt. John Nesbitt: evidence on arrest

supporters heading for the works entrance.

Mr Scargill's allegation about the previous plot to arrest him came during cross-examination by Mr Roger Keen, for the prosecution. He said that he had been on the picket line on four days before his arrest and had complied with police instructions about where he should stand.

A 35-second video film from a BBC news report of Mr Scargill's arrest was played over three television sets, on at least five occasions. It showed Mr Scargill, carrying a loud hailer and wearing a blue baseball-style cap at the head of a column of men walking on the pavement towards the coking plant.

Then Chief Supt. Nesbitt was

seen approaching Mr Scargill and asking him to keep moving. The NUM president was heard to reply: "No way." Within 20 seconds Chief Supt. Nesbitt had ordered his arrest.

Chief Supt. Nesbitt said that he first approached Mr Scargill at 7.30am and said: "Gentlemen, please don't obstruct the footpath. Keep moving. My officers will escort you to a grassed area below the works entrance."

He heard Mr Scargill then say: "Lads, we are staying on the footpath. He can't tell us where to go." Mr Scargill said that the conversation had never taken place.

The case continues today.

● Mr Malcolm Pitt, the Kent NUM president, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £25 costs for obstructing a police officer on a picket line at Thimstone Colliery, near Deal, on September 3.

● The NCB revealed yesterday that it had received more than 2,500 applications for 235 new vacancies at 16 pits in the western region.

● Coal board experts are confident they have brought under control and underground fire threatening a £1million development at Rossington colliery.

● Coal production stopped at Manton Colliery near Worsop, yesterday - just 24 hours after it became the first pit in the Yorkshire area to produce coal.

## Man set to marry his mother in law

The House of Lords last night gave its blessing to the wedding of Mr Alan Monk, aged 29, a van driver, who wants to marry his mother-in-law.

Mr Monk, who lives with Mrs Valerie Hill, aged 48, his former wife's mother-in-law, Ashford, Kent, said he was "jubilant and relieved" after peers gave his personal Marriage Enabling Bill a second reading. Although the Bill has passed its first hurdle, the couple must wait until a Lords committee and MPs have also given permission for the marriage.

Under common law, a special act of Parliament is needed before Mr Monk can marry Mrs Hill at a register office ceremony. His former marriage ended in divorce.

## Mother and children die

A woman and her two children were found dead in a car at their home at Cranfield, near Bedford.

The bodies of Mrs Irene Austin, aged 34, Matthew, aged eight, and Deborah, aged six, were found when a milkman broke into a garage when he heard the car engine running.

## Football club fraud inquiry

Essex police confirmed yesterday that they arrested Mr Keith Holmes, secretary of Southend United football club, in connection with a fraud squad inquiry into the Southend supporters' Christmas club. No charges have been preferred and Mr Holmes has been released on police bail until February.

The football club has agreed that it borrowed money and could not then pay it back in time. It is believed about £70,000 is missing.

## More British films promised

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday said 10 new British-made feature films will be produced each year with backing from the National Film Finance Corporation's as yet unnamed successor.

He also held out the long-term hope that the public may be able to buy shares in the body, which will have an annual £3 million budget.

## Cheaper flights experiment

Britain and West Germany yesterday announced a two-year experiment which will cut the cost of flying between the two countries by a few pounds.

The Department of Transport said British and German airlines will be free to operate services between the UK and any point in West Germany, and airlines will be able to combine services to make a service viable.

## Freeze on postal charges

Postal charges will be frozen until September, the Post Office announced yesterday. The news came as it revealed a £40m pre-tax profit on the six months from April to September.

The profits are £1 million more than the same period last year and reflect a big increase in letter traffic for the third year running.

## 3 months' jail for Celtic fan

A Celtic fan who punched the goalkeeper of Rapid Vienna, Herbert Feuer, was sentenced yesterday to three months imprisonment by magistrates at Manchester.

John Tobin, aged 31 and unemployed, of Treforest Road, Coventry, who pleaded guilty to threatening behaviour, had run on to the pitch, swung a punch at the goalkeeper and shouted: "I am going to kill you."

Match follow up, page 28

## Bandage to speed cures

A new way of dressing wounds could save the National Health Service millions of pounds a year by reducing the need for attention and speeding the healing process. Dr Christopher Lawrence, director of the Medical Research Council's burns research group at Birmingham Accident Hospital, claimed yesterday.

The new dressing, developed in the United States keeps the wound moist instead of letting the air in.

Dr Wynn Weston-Davies,

medical director of Squibb Surgicare, who are marketing the dressing in Britain told a Press conference that trials in Darlington with 180 patients showed 76 per cent of ulcers healed within 50 days.

It was claimed that 60 per cent of chronic ulcers could be cured by the treatment. One study showed that an ulcer could be cured with six weekly dressings costing £1.50 each compared with the £1,200 a year it now costs to treat chronic ulcer.

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## Industry chiefs back £50bn European transport links

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A £50 billion scheme to revitalize Europe with a range of transnational road, tunnel and railway projects was launched in London yesterday by a group comprising some of the Continent's leading and most influential industrialists.

The group, which calls itself the Roundtable and which includes Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, claimed that travelling time in Europe could be halved by massive investment in the infrastructure and that this would give a major boost to business competitiveness.

Three specific projects are advocated: a road-rail link across the English Channel, a high-speed rail network across the Continent using available technology such as magnetic levitation, and a motorway and rail system to connect Scandinavia with the rest of Europe and including two fixed links across the Oresund and the German belt.

The proposals, plus new or upgraded crossings into the Iberian peninsula, Italy and the Balkans, would, the group said, have wide range impacts including stimulus to European industrial technology.

Mr Pehr Gyllenhammar, president of Volvo and chairman of the 22-member Roundtable, said the number of jobs created by the schemes would be "very dramatic" with the cross-Channel link alone estimated to need 100,000 workers for five years.

The Roundtable, whose members together command vast resources across Europe and collectively could exert considerable pressure on governments, includes names such as Signor Umberto Agnelli of Fiat, Sir John Clark of Plessey, Mr Kenneth Durham of Unilever, Herr Dieter Spethmann of Thyssen, M Bernard Hanon of Renault and Mr Wisse Dekker of Philips. All are chairmen, chief executives, presidents or managing directors of their companies.

Schemes advocated by the group were said to be examples of what was needed, yet the only cross-Channel link described was the Euroroute scheme being promoted by a group including Mr MacGregor, who originally supported the idea when he was chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Gyllenhammar stressed that there was no vested interest on the part of members of the group, but rather a desire to see Europe succeed in the same way as the United States or Japan.

"The potential must be tapped and we are running out of time," he said.

Some of the projects could be financed largely by the private sector, the Roundtable says, but there is an urgent need for governments to create the right investment climate with harmonization of tax concessions and other fiscal incentives.

The set of proposals, which the group describes as the "Missing Links", would be most attractive financially if considered as part of "a coherent European-scale programme".

## Trial by jury - not by media

# Australian judge to face charges

From Tony Dumbarton, Melbourne

Mr Justice Lionel Murphy of the High Court is to be charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice and becomes the first High Court judge to face criminal charges.

The decision to charge Mr Justice Murphy, aged 62, a former federal Attorney-General under Mr Gough Whitlam's Labour Government, was announced yesterday by Mr Ian Temby QC, the federal Director of Public Prosecutions, and comes after two all-party Senate Committee inquiries into the judge's behaviour.

Mr Temby said he had decided that there was enough evidence to warrant Mr Justice Murphy's prosecution in relation to the hearing of a conspiracy charge against the Sydney solicitor, Mr Morgan Ryan.

The decision said nothing about the guilt or innocence of either Mr Ryan or Mr Justice Murphy, Mr Temby said. It was of paramount importance that the judge receive a fair trial, and as far as he could see the only thing standing in the way of that was a trial by the media.

Likewise, he hoped there would be no further parliamentary proceedings or debate concerning Mr Justice Murphy until the charge had been disposed of.

The matter will be dealt with by judge and jury in the Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court. A date for the hearing has not been fixed, but it is unlikely it would be before February, unless special sittings are arranged. The ACT Supreme Court rises today and resumes on February 5.

Mr Justice Murphy has been on leave from the High Court since soon after the report of the second Senate Committee was handed down at the end of October.

He made a brief statement yesterday: "I have not committed any offence. I waive my right to a committal hearing in order that the air can be cleared as quickly as possible. I welcome the fact that the allegations will be tried by judge and jury, not the media."

A majority of the second Senate Committee found that "on the balance of probabilities" Mr Justice Murphy had tried to influence the outcome of the Ryan case, which involved an alleged immigration racket. The earlier Senate inquiry had split on party lines.

Mr Kerry Packer, head of Australian Consolidated Press, has decided to drop a proposed action for defamation against Mr Douglas Meagher QC, counsel assisting the Costigan royal commission into organized crime in Australia.

A writ was taken out, but not delivered to Mr Meagher. It claimed damages relating to allegations that Mr Meagher was responsible for leaking summaries of the royal commission to the *National Times* news weekly.



Mr Justice Murphy: Welcomes chance to clear the air.

## Mass flight of Sikhs to Punjab

From Kuldip Nayyar, Delhi

Nearly 100,000 Sikhs are believed to have moved in the past few days from different parts of India to the Punjab, where the Sikhs are in a majority. They form about 52 per cent of the population.

Newspapers carry a lot of advertisements, mostly from the Sikhs, offering property.

There is a growing fear among Sikhs that there may be one more round of communal disturbances before the election day - December 24 - in order to keep them away from the polling booths.

So persistent have been these rumours that the federal Home Ministry in Delhi yesterday issued a statement intended to allay the fears of the Sikhs. A ministry spokesman denied that there was widespread panic among the Sikhs.

The ministry has also directed the states and territories of India to take necessary steps to instil confidence among the minorities and ensure the safety of life and property.

## Sri Lanka hits back at Rajiv

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

The Government of Sri Lanka yesterday expressed regret and dismay over the statement by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, on Sri Lanka which by its language, tone and substance "could only encourage Tamil terrorists and their supporters to pursue their nefarious activities."

A statement issued by the Foreign Minister, Mr A. C. S. Hameed, at the Cabinet's request, expressed surprise and regret that Mr Gandhi had accused Sri Lanka "security forces of indiscriminate killing, and had not referred to terrorist violence which had led to the brutal killing of innocent civilians."

Mr Hameed said it was the escalation of terrorist activity which had made necessary effective measures to defend life and property.

He charged that the Indian Government had "chosen to turn a blind eye to the activities of Sri Lanka terrorists on Indian territory."

## Sect's papers shut down

Islamabad - The Punjab state Government has closed a printing press owned by the Ahmedi Jamaat, a declared non-Muslim minority, and suspended four Ahmedi newspapers and journals for three months (Our Correspondent writes).

A Pakistan Government spokesman said yesterday that the publications had been printing objectionable material.

Muslim organisations have asked the Government in Islamabad to ban the Ahmedi annual conference reported to be planned in Rabwah, the movement's headquarters, late this month. The Government had warned the rivals to refrain from creating disturbances.

## Magistrates move for legal protection

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Magistrates' Association has approached the Lord Chancellor over whether magistrates should be protected in law against civil actions and claims by victims of courtroom injustice.

Some magistrates have expressed concern to the association about their vulnerability to actions from defendants after a law lords' ruling last month.

The lords held that a Northern Ireland bench of justices was liable to a civil claim for damages because they had not informed the defendant of his right to legal aid.

Another bench is facing legal action and a claim for substantial damages for alleged wrongful imprisonment of a man over his failure to pay a maintenance order.

Section 45 of the Justices of the Peace Act 1974 gives a person who is injured by an act of a magistrate exceeding his jurisdiction the right to bring a legal action. The question in this case is over the magistrates' power to enforce a maintenance order made in a higher court and to send the man to prison for non-payment.

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of Magistrates' Association, said: "There ought to be a scheme for compensating people without the need for magistrates to be sued."

Under section 53 of the Act, magistrates could be indemnified against such actions by the local magistrates' court's committee where they had acted in good faith, he said.

"But it is still not very happy for them to have to face legal action over a period of possibly several months."

Magistrates should have the same protection against being sued as judges, he said. "Justices have to deal with cases without the detailed legal argument that judges get from counsel on both sides, so they have the difficult job of acting unassisted by all that collective wisdom."

In their ruling the law lords criticized the lack of protection for JPs and called for changes

## Dolls' house hid heroin, court told

A couple used their children's dolls' house to store heroin worth thousands of pounds, Inner London Crown Court heard yesterday.

In one week alone police watched 463 callers visit Christopher and Penelope Chequer's home in Billington Road, New Cross, south London, the court heard.

The dolls' house was a gift to their three children, a boy aged 22 months and two daughters, aged 6 and 3, all of whom have been taken into care.

Christopher Chequer, aged 32, was jailed for nine years after he admitted supplying heroin. His wife was jailed for seven years after she was convicted of supplying the drug.

Bernard Hinks, aged 29, of Clarendon Hinks, Lewisham, described in court as a "major dealer" was jailed for nine years and Craig Bertrand, aged 23, of Harden Court, Tamar Street, Charlton, was sentenced to two years for supplying the drug.

Mr David Lowe, aged 32, a car dealer of Bowling Green Row, Woolwich, was found not guilty of supplying heroin.

Judge Shindler, QC, told the convicted: "You are a menace to society and exemplary sentences must be passed."

## 'Starvation' fear for homeless

By Nicholas Timmins

The Government's plans to set new limits and rules for board and lodging payments will mean some people will be faced with "starvation or the streets", Shelter said yesterday.

The proposal to limit single people to between £50 and £70 a week for board and lodging will leave them with between £4.04 and £6.90 a night for bed and breakfast after allowing for the other meals element in the payments, the housing pressure group said.

For couples with children, if the Government goes ahead with its proposal to pay them only one-and-a-half or one-and-three-quarters of the single person's rate, the amount available for bed and breakfast a night after deducting the meals allowance could be as little as 61p per person.

The proposals "will mean overcrowding, squalid conditions - even the streets. People will have to choose between a bed and a meal - there will not be money for both."

The proposals aim to prevent young people living on "dole by the sea" and to curb an increase in spending from £277 million last year to an estimated £380 million this.

## Trinity House considers cuts in pilot service

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

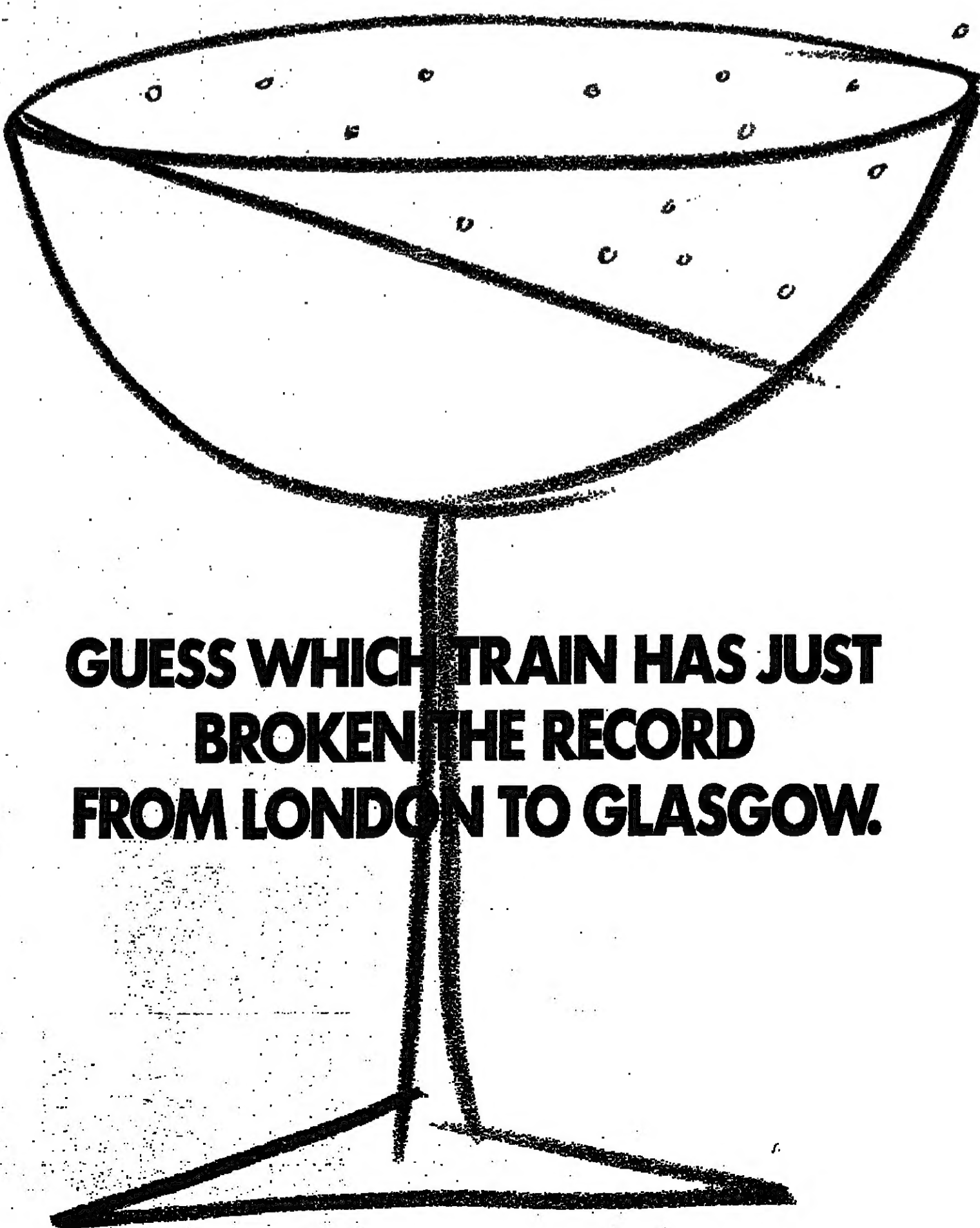
Government proposals for the reduction of Britain's sea pilotage service have received the guarded support of Trinity House, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is Master.

A Green paper for the Department of Transport proposes that the pilotage force should be heavily cut back and controlled by port authorities rather than Trinity House.

The implication of the plan is that Trinity House, which controls about a third of the coastal pilots, including those in such areas as London and the South East, would be reduced to the role of agent for the port authorities, and then only for those who request it.

The proposals threaten the long standing autonomy of 1,400 pilots who have always been self-employed. Recently their income has been guaranteed at up to £25,000 a year, though some work only 10 hours a week. Only about 600 are thought to be needed.

To date, successive attempts to cut the pilot force at the merchant fleet shrank and with the introduction of new navigational aids, have foundered.



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## Day of reckoning for the Community

## Euro-MPs reject 'fake budget' as EEC power struggle looms

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

The European Parliament yesterday voted overwhelmingly to throw out the EEC's budget for next year. It did so on the grounds that the £15,500 million in it would not be enough to cover the estimated expenditure and was thus nothing but "a fake budget". Even so the budget used to virtually every penny available to the EEC.

Only five members were prepared to accept the budget. But 319 voted to reject it while just 16 abstained. In contrast to five years ago when members cheered and threw their papers excitedly in the air when the budget was last rejected, this time there was only a quiet ripple of applause.

Members seemed aware that they had now the fullest support for their ensuing power struggle with the Council of Ministers.

They were also aware that they were putting the new European Commission, which takes over next month, in the extremely awkward position of having to run the Community without a budget.

As a result, the running costs of the Community next year will have to be met out of the limited funds available through a system which provides only monthly amounts known in Community jargon as "provisional twelfths".

Some member states may welcome this as it will provide a psychological brake on spending, and because it will put real pressure on West Germany - the only country still holding out against increasing the legal ceiling on contributions next year.

But in the interval money earmarked for research - an area where Europe is badly behind - will be blocked. There can be no money paid to help West German farmers adjust to the phasing out of their subsidized "green mark" rate. Help for the Spanish fishing fleet to be restructured after

entering the Community is also at risk.

The pressure will grow on the budget for paying farmers, for helping the unemployed and for providing food aid. Although little or no difference may be apparent for a month or so, the whole infrastructure of the Community will increasingly be at risk.

Calculation of the provisional twelfths means that the Community is only allowed to spend an amount equivalent to what it spent last year, or equivalent to the amount in the rejected budget. The lower of the two figures is chosen. Then one-twelfth of the annual amount is automatically paid over each month.

It is possible for the monthly payment to be increased if the Commission asks for it and the Council of Ministers votes to agree to it by the necessary majority. For bills incurred to pay for items not covered by the treaties, the approval of Parliament is also required.

In rejecting the budget Parliament is entering un-

charted territory. Although it threw out the 1980 budget, forcing the Community to live off "provisional twelfths" for a couple of months, there is little real comparison between then and now.

That is because five years ago the EEC had plenty of money and the Commission was able to apply for extra funds to meet the running costs, confident in the knowledge that when a budget was finally agreed there was going to be enough cash available.

But this time there is no extra money. If the Commission asks for an advance over and above the allotted twelfth, there is no way within existing Community rules for more money to be found.

There is no doubt that more money will be needed than can be made available each month. In January, the Commission knows it must find about £1,200 million to meet its obligations to farmers. Yet only £800 million is available. Assuming the Council gives permission for it to draw extra money, the day of reckoning comes that much closer.

The same applies to areas where Parliament's permission is required for an extra advance. This is most likely to be the case with food aid since the greatest need for money will occur at the start of the year before the harvest comes in.

In theory, there should be enough money to last until October or even beyond. In practice, the time could begin to pinch in a number of areas by early summer. Moreover, a small alliance of states could contrive a blocking vote in the Council to stop extra money being supplied, if between them they felt it was time to put extra pressure on to settle the problem.

This is where Parliament is taking a calculated gamble. It expects the Commission and

Council of Ministers to go on agreeing to put up what money is needed until such time as they both come to their senses and come forward with a new budget which meets the demand of members.

But they have no proof of this. The brand-new Commission, under M. Jacques Delors, which takes over in January, may not act with the predictable tameness of the old Commission.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, who leaves his job as Budget Commissioner at a time when the Community has no budget, predicted here that things would begin to be very difficult by June if the argument could not be solved. Although he did not expect the member states to be difficult at the start of the year, he could see complications building up rapidly. "The messing up potential is quite great," he said.

Mr Jean-Pierre Cot, chairman of the budget committee, insisted that the Council would release the necessary money because it was needed to pay for policies which the Council itself had approved.

But as Mr Jim O'Keefe, the Irish Minister in charge of the budget council, pointed out: "There is no more money. Parliament cannot create more money just by saying it is there."

Mr Richard Cottrell, the Conservative member for Bristol, was one of the five who voted to accept the budget. "We are fighting the wrong battle, for the wrong reasons, on the wrong ground," he said. "Just like Napoleon on the way back from Moscow, the Council will pick up on group by group as the winter deepens."

Mr Richard Cottrell, the Conservative member for Bristol, was one of the five who voted to accept the budget. "We are fighting the wrong battle, for the wrong reasons, on the wrong ground," he said. "Just like Napoleon on the way back from Moscow, the Council will pick up on group by group as the winter deepens."



Mr Tugendhat: Problems will start in June

## Walesa pleads for dialogue on anniversary of martial law

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

On the third anniversary of the imposition of martial law, the Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa, sharply criticized the Polish Government and urged the Communist authorities to start a dialogue with the opposition.

Mr Walesa's comments came in the text of a speech prepared for delivery on Sunday to mark the 14th anniversary of the shooting of protesting Baltic workers. The speech was released in advance in case police prevented him from delivering it in Gdansk.

The past three years have left no doubt about the complete bankruptcy of those who imagined that it was possible to make changes in Poland without Solidarity, and that it was possible to implement some kind of absolutism, Mr Walesa said.

As a result of martial law, Poland was "sinking into permanent crisis", he stated.

Meanwhile, three Roman Catholic bishops have thrown their weight behind the students

occupying a technical college to protest against the Communist authorities ripping down crucifixes from their classrooms. The Church pressure came as hundreds of thousands of Poles throughout the country flocked to religious services to pray for the victims of martial law.

The occupation strike in Wlozczowa, southern Poland, appeared to be the only flashpoint on this most sensitive of all Poland's political anniversaries.

Underground Solidarity leaders had called on Poles not to forget the December anniversaries - including the third anniversary of the killings of striking miners at the Wlozczowa - but has studiously avoided appealing for demonstrations.

Solidarity sympathizers said that evening Masses could evolve into candle-lit protest processions but that the aim was to express solemn outrage rather than risk confrontation with the police.

Temperatures are running high.

## Indonesia to buy Rapier missiles

From Our Correspondent Jakarta

The Indonesian armed forces have signed an order with British Aerospace for the Rapier missile defence system, said by British Embassy spokesmen to be worth £100 million.

Western military attaches said the short-range, ground-to-air system appeared to have been chosen over several European rivals. The Rapier, they pointed out, performed well in the Falklands war, as did the French Exocet. Indonesia already has Exocet missiles.

Diplomatic sources said the main competitor had been the French Roland missile, which although in range was more expensive. They did not rule out the purchase of Roland as a complementary system.

The diplomats saw "no great significance" in the timing of the purchase other than that the armed forces had seen that the time had come to replace outdated heavy Soviet weaponry and augment light shoulder-fired missiles.

## Israel accused of killings in Lebanon crackdown

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

Israeli forces raided at least seven south Lebanon villages yesterday in what the military command said was an effort "to prevent attacks on our troops".

The Shi'ite Muslim leader Mr Nadhi Berri, who serves as Minister of State for south Lebanon in the Lebanese Cabinet, told a news conference in Beirut that four people were killed during the raids, including a 14-year-old girl. Witnesses said at least 50 people were arrested.

An Israeli patrol was ambushed east of Tyre yesterday afternoon and two soldiers were wounded, reports reaching Beirut indicated.

Mr Berri accused the Israelis of "a large campaign of besieging and storming villages and firing at innocent residents, including women and children", and called for continued resistance against the Israeli occupation force. He also urged shops and businesses to close tomorrow in protest against the Israeli action.

The raids, which began before dawn, were conducted in a semi-circle of mostly Shi'ite villages east of Tyre. Most arrests were reportedly in

Toura. The Israelis were said to have blown up a house in Maarakah after explosives were allegedly found in it.

The Israeli military command in Tel Aviv said 14 people were arrested during the operation. All were "suspected of planning and carrying out attacks" against the Israeli forces in the south. "A large quantity of weapons" were confiscated.

Burj Rahha, Toura and Maarakah were encircled until well into the afternoon. Other villages known to have been searched included Bedias, Absiyeh, Tir Dibba and Jannoun.

Mr Timur Goksel, a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which has positions in the area, said a UN medical team was allowed to enter Toura at noon. They found a dead 14-year-old girl and four wounded civilians.

"In none of the cases do we know the circumstances of the injuries. We are investigating."

Earlier, Mr Goksel said the bodies of a Lebanese woman from Toura and a man from Maarakah had been taken to the French Unifil post.



Cheer leader: Señor González acknowledging applause at his party's first conference since coming to power.

## González puts his case for Nato

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The stability of Spanish democracy was directly involved in Spain's remaining a member of the Atlantic Alliance, Señor Felipe González declared yesterday on the opening day of the Socialist Party Conference here.

Señor González recommended to delegates the option he had already announced in Parliament: that Spain should remain politically in Nato but not to join its military structure.

He sketched a scene of Spain joining Nato at the political level, as it did in 1982, then leaving in 1985 only to seek membership again should the Socialists lose power.

"Is it possible to submit Spain, and its stability internally and in its international relations, to changing situations of such magnitude?" he asked. Reflect seriously, comrades, where we wish to go as a party and as the Spanish people."

Señor González was applauded, however, when he added that the Spanish people had the sovereign choice of whether to stay in the Alliance, and that he was not threatening anyone.

Foreign policy should be based on the widest possible national consensus. Some veteran Socialist, he reminded delegates had believed that the recovery of Spanish democracy would be linked with joining the Western Alliance.

Señor González recalled in some detail the February, 1981, coup attempt, and the plot to overthrow democracy that was uncovered a month before the Socialists won the 1982 general election. He emphasized that one of his Government's main priorities had been to dispel the risk of Spain falling back into authoritarianism.

He dispatched confidently the issue of Spain's awkward wait to join the EEC. "Europe is conscious that entry is irreversible. We will complete it."

Most of his 90-minute speech was a defence of his Government's two years in office. He told the delegates they must get the message across to the country that present economic hardships were aimed at preserving and creating jobs for future prosperity, as the basis for greater social justice.

He attacked the Communists as demagogues; aligning themselves with any labour unrest when they knew Spain's resources for modernization were scarce.

At the same time, the Foreign Secretary was convinced that arms control talks alone were not enough. There had to be other contracts, he said, and announced that he was to make two further trips next year to Warsaw Pact countries - the first to Romania and Bulgaria, and the second to East Germany and Czechoslovakia to hold talks.

These came after visits this year by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to Hungary and Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to Poland.

## Alliance to improve links with East in 1985

From Frederick Bonart, Brussels

Nato has named 1985 as the year for improving East-West relations. But there remained real differences among alliance foreign ministers when they started a two-day meeting here yesterday, about how best to achieve their aim.

Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, had a difficult job on his hands to reassure the doubting and to reconcile the different points of view before the meeting's final communiqué is issued today.

Meanwhile, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, announced a big diplomatic offensive against the Warsaw Pact.

Mr Shultz spent well over an hour at the start of the meeting explaining what his preparations and hopes are for the planned meeting with Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Geneva on January 7 and 8. This was seen by all as the key to future progress.

He assured his colleagues that he was committed to preparing the "talks about talks," as the meeting has been called. The US was treating them extremely seriously and very open-minded, he said, even though he did not expect anything of substance to be discussed on arms control. His aim was simply to fix an agenda and working arrangements for further talks.

He also emphasized that in everything he did he would maintain the closest possible consultations with the other members of the Alliance. Behind the scenes he was working hard to ensure he had maximum co-operation from European allies.

Before the Nato meeting began he saw Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, and Mr Hans van den Broek, the Dutch Foreign Minister, to argue that they must stick firmly to their commitment to allow medium-range nuclear weapons to be deployed in their countries.

Belgium has announced that it will only allow the 48 cruise missiles it is meant to take from next March once it has studied the result of the forthcoming Geneva talks. Holland, which is meant to deploy its 48 missiles in 1986, has yet to start preparing its base.

Mr Shultz argued with both countries that they must not give the Soviet leaders the impression that they were weakening. This, he said, would give them the impression that they could achieve what they wanted without having to give up anything themselves.

Mr Shultz was also concerned to head off West German hopes that the Geneva talks could lead on to a form of genuine détente.

The American view is that there is no basic change at the moment in East-West attitudes and that the best that can be hoped for from the talks at this stage is a halt in the nuclear arms race. The view of Sir Geoffrey was that the Russians had only agreed to come to Geneva because they were worried about being left behind in the "Star Wars" technology.

There had to be absolute solidarity with the American position if further progress was to be made.

At the same time, the Foreign Secretary was convinced that arms control talks alone were not enough. There had to be other contracts, he said, and announced that he was to make two further trips next year to Warsaw Pact countries - the first to Romania and Bulgaria, and the second to East Germany and Czechoslovakia to hold talks.

These came after visits this year by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to Hungary and Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to Poland.



Jackie's night out: Mrs Jacqueline Onassis leaving a New York theatre after watching a performance of 'La Bohème'.

## Breakthrough on Cyprus

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities have agreed to hold a summit next month, bringing the two sides closer to reunification than at any time since the Turkish invasion of 1974.

President Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, will enter the summit having made substantial territorial and constitutional concessions and having reduced the enmity and mistrust between them.

In agreeing to the summit President Kyprianou has removed a self-imposed barrier against meeting Mr Denktas face to face. The President feared it would imply recognition of and lend legitimacy to the unilaterally declared Turkish Cypriot state in the north.

Señor Javier Pérez de Celler, the United Nations Secretary-General, announced the meeting after concluding three rounds of proximity talks. The sessions were close to collapse when the Turkish Cypriots, under pressure from Turkey, which in turn was being prodded by the United States, offered a compromise on territory.

It is clear from the outline of the peace package and the

## Delors says US should be less aggressive

Paris (Reuters) - Relations between West Europe and the United States are abysmal and Washington should make an effort to be less aggressive, Jacques Delors, president-designate of the European Commission, said here.

"Relations are abysmal, given that we are friends," he told a press lunch. "If we were enemies, they would be acceptable... All that has to change."

France had suffered in the past from too much ideology. "But now ideology seems to have crossed the Atlantic... a bible in one hand and a revolver in the other - I cannot stand that," he said.

As France's Finance Minister for three years until last July, M. Delors regularly criticized US economic policy for boosting the dollar and driving up interest rates, adding in turn to the Third World's debt burden.

Marcos display 'tasteless'

Manila (AP) - Cardinal Sin has accused President Marcos of "a tasteless display of exhibitionism" in baring his chest and stomach on Philippine television to show he has no surgical scars.

He said the president may have resorted to his impromptu display because Filipinos suspect their Government "has been feeding them a steady diet of half-truths and outright lies."

Boxer's brother jailed for brawl

Munich (Reuters) - Garry Cable, aged 31, brother of the British boxer, Jimmy Cable, was sentenced to 18 months' jail here for causing grievous bodily harm during the beer festival.

Cable, who was with his brother in Munich as a sparring partner, was accused of attacking a man with a beer glass and breaking another man's jaw with an uppercut. He has until the end of the week to appeal.

Priest rebuked

Stockholm (Reuters) - The Rev Carl-Heinrich Schmutzler, a Swedish clergyman who caused a furore when he claimed in a radio interview that the famine in Ethiopia and Hitler's persecution of the Jews were the work of God, has been "severely reprimanded" by the church of Sweden said.

Runway escape

New York (Reuters) - The landing gear of an American Airlines jet collapsed as the plane prepared for take-off at Kennedy Airport. None of the crew or the 170 passengers on the flight to Los Angeles was hurt.

Peking protest

Peking (Reuters) - Peking University students staged an illegal demonstration to protest against poor living and working conditions, the third known case of campus unrest in China in recent months.

Children killed

Baghdad (AFP) - Two children were killed and six others seriously wounded when a bomb exploded in a central city square here. The Interior Ministry blamed Syria and Iran.

Pipeline blast

Islamabad (AFP) - Sixteen people were killed and eight seriously injured when a natural gas pipeline exploded in central Pakistan. A big fire followed the explosion near the small town of Kashmor.

Freedom day

Dhaka (AP) - Bangladesh is to free 200 children and prisoners to mark Victory Day (over Pakistan) on Sunday. They will include 92 detained without trial.

Crash toll rises

Prin, West Germany (AP) - Two more children died of injuries suffered in a collision between a school bus and a goods train, raising to four the number of dead.

Japanes

Blunders

From David Watts Tokyo

A cartoon story in a leading Japanese newspaper showed police officers who had failed to solve the extortion case against the country's biggest firm, which had been the victim of a major blunder.

The cartoon is doubly witty for the police - not only for their blunder but also for the fact that the police have just been revealed as having been deceived by a series of blunders in the past.

The chairman of the National Public Safety Council, Mr Taro Yamaoka, has called a "major failure" in the past.

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# Kirkpatrick and Baker are likely rivals in battle for Reagan's ear

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The key people surrounding President Reagan in the White House are jostling to fill a power vacuum that will be created by the departure early next year of Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsel, to become Attorney General. Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the outgoing US Ambassador to the United Nations, is being touted by conservatives as a possible successor.

The battle for the President's ear is on both a personal and ideological level. Ideologically, it centres on two rival Republican wings: the right wing and the moderates.

Mr Meese, a conservative, is an old friend of the President, a vital link between the Oval Office and the powerful conservative lobby. He is what conservatives call "a true believer", a member of the right wing.

It is well-known in Washington that often the President is through Mr Meese. He is

expected to leave the White House in February.

Mr Meese has suggested that Mr Reagan may not appoint another counsel. Conservatives would be unhappy with the President surrounded by officials, who do not carry the sort of direct clout they are seeking.

As Attorney General, a Cabinet post, Mr Meese will continue to be close to the President. But his greatest value to conservatives - that of keeping the door open to the Oval Office - will be lost. Even if Mrs Kirkpatrick fills the job, the departure of Mr Meese will remain a serious loss to the conservative lobby.

Without another counsel, access to the President would be through several senior aides, principally Mr Richard Darman, Assistant to the President, Mr John S. Vahn, Assistant to the President for Policy Development, and Mr Craig Fuller, Assistant to the President for Cabinet Affairs.

None has an especially close rapport with Mr Reagan.

Mrs Kirkpatrick has long wanted to be Secretary of State or the President's National Security Adviser. Since neither post has been forthcoming, she might be attracted by being White House counsel, also a Cabinet-level post. She remains a registered Democrat, but a long-time favourite of conservative Republicans.

Conservatives are determined to stall Mr Howard Baker's attempt to move closer to President Reagan following the departure of Mr Meese. To their chagrin, he already enjoys an influential relationship with the President.

Mr Baker, the White House chief of staff, is a moderate conservative - a pragmatist - in the parlance of Washington Republicans - and has emerged as a key figure in an attempt to modify some aspects of the Administration's conservative agenda.

## Treating the survivors of Bhopal



Doctors who are on strike over an assault on a colleague continue to treat victims.

## Rebels step up war against Marcos

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Communist guerrilla attacks and influence in the central Philippines have increased alarmingly and New People's Army rebels are aiming to establish a clandestine provisional revolutionary government in the region within two years, according to military officials.

A stepped-up "strategic offensive" is planned in the Central Visayas region, involving a military and propaganda operation coupled with a intensified drive to recruit supporters to fight the 19-year-old Marcos Government, the officials said.

In a briefing for the armed forces' Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, the military commanders of the Regional Unified Commands in Eastern and Western Visayas also confirmed mounting popular support for the rebels.

The NPA had gained much support from "non-traditional sectors", such as professional people, landowners and businessmen, who provided much of their financial backing, said Brigadier-General Isidoro de Guzman of the Western Visayas RUC.

He reported that in the first nine months of the year there

were 223 "violent incidents" in the five provinces under his command, in which 82 soldiers and 60 civilians died. There were six raids on towns and military camps.

In the Eastern Visayas, 11 towns and 29 military camps and outposts were raided. Brigadier-General Salvador Mison said. He complained to General Ramos that troop detachments were undermanned and underarmed. Soldiers killed in battle were not replaced and no new weapons were issued for those captured by the NPA. There were an estimated 850 NPA guerrillas in the region, General Mison said, supported by 15,000 "activists".

The NPA's "mass base of support" - the population under their control or supportive of their actions - was more than 250,000 on Samar Island alone, he said.

Military and government officials in recent weeks have conceded "greater battlefield success, support and mobility of NPA guerrillas who, General Ramos estimates, could number 10,000 to 12,000 men spread across almost all of the country's 73 provinces.

## Doctors say sight can be saved

From Trevor Fishlock, Bhopal

Hundreds of people in Bhopal have suffered serious eye damage and some will be left with a permanent partial loss of sight. Nevertheless, eye specialists are confident that the great majority of those affected by the leaking methyl isocyanate (MIC) have not suffered serious eye injury.

Pictures of people with bandaged eyes can be misleading. Eyes are covered as part of the treatment, and a temporary impairment of vision is caused by one of the drugs used in the treatment.

Mrs Sudhar Garg is typical of many people who felt her eyes burning and irritating as the yellow gas drifted into her home. When I saw her on Sunday her eyes were bandaged. Yesterday the bandages were off and she was told her sight should return to normal.

Mrs Garg was treated at Bhopal military hospital, which has admitted 450 gas victims. Major R. Khatri, an eye specialist there, said: "About 5 per cent of our eye cases are graded as very serious - that means they have a lot of damage to the cornea and will have partial blindness.

## Strained relations on mend as Canada warms to the US

From John Best, Ottawa

Canada's new Conservative Government has moved on two fronts in recent days to harmonize relations with the United States, often strained under the previous Liberal administration.

In doing so it has stoked an increasingly vigorous debate here about how close Canada should allow itself to be drawn into the embrace of its big neighbour.

The latest move was the speech which the Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, made to the Economic Club of New York last week, which amounted to an open call for more US business investment in Canada.

Outlining his Government's plans for abolishing most of the restrictions on foreign investment instituted several years ago by the Liberals, Mr Mulroney said: "Our message is clear - Canada is open for business again." About 1,500 high-powered business executives and financiers applauded loudly.

Mr Mulroney's speech followed by three days the introduction by the Tories of legislation to abolish the Foreign Investment Review Agency and replace it with a new agency to be known as Investment Canada.

The new agency's mandate will be to stimulate foreign investment, rather than hinder it by obstructive screening processes aimed at determining whether individual transactions are in Canada's interest, as takes place under FIRA.

The proposed changes are the most concrete evidence yet of the Government's determination to move Canada away from nationalist policies which caused endless friction with the US, and to some extent other countries as well, when the Liberals were in power.

Mr Mulroney further pleased

his New York audience, and the Reagan Administration, by pledging to remove a second source of trouble in the bilateral relationship. That is a regulation introduced in 1981 giving the Canadian Government a one-quarter share in all oil discoveries off the Canadian coasts or in the North. Most of the exploration in these frontier areas is carried out by American-owned multi-national companies.

By making Canada more hospitable to foreign capital, Mr Mulroney hopes to give the economy the boost it needs to help him redeem his campaign promise of a substantial reduction in Canada's chronically high unemployment, now running at 11.3 per cent.

He also hopes to further nourish Canada-US trade, already expected to reach the staggering level of \$US110 billion this year. Seventy-five per cent of all Canadian exports go to the US and the proportion could go even higher if current proposals for bilateral free-trade arrangements - subject of fierce controversy within Canada - are adopted, on this point.

The Prime Minister has worked hard to establish a close rapport with President Reagan, and this week it was announced that the President will visit Canada next March, repaying a visit Mr Mulroney made to Washington eight days after his installation as Prime Minister in September. The two leaders have agreed to meet once a year.

## Rooftop hanging

New York (AFP) - A visiting communist Chinese official has been found hanging from a cable on the roof of Peking's consulate-general in Manhattan. Zhang Xin, aged 49, a Textile Ministry official, committed suicide, the consulate said.

## Pisani sees risk of more New Caledonia clashes

Noumea (Reuters) - The French special envoy, M. Edgard Pisani, who was sent to the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia to defuse communal tension, said yesterday that there was a danger of new violence between militant Kanaks and white settlers.

M. Pisani, in his first full news conference since arriving on December 4, said: "In the last 10 days considerable progress has been made. But I cannot guarantee that at one moment or another a new wave of disturbances might not compromise these gains."

Last month Kanaks seeking independence set up barricades and clashed with white settlers

after the election of an island assembly was won by the conservative Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République, which opposes independence. The militant Kanaks boycotted the vote.

France has said it will hold a referendum on independence in 1989, although M. Pisani has indicated he will discuss an earlier date in talks with all factions. Yesterday he said: "When things are normal, when there is a consensus of opinion, then restoration of order means something."

He said he would return to Paris next week for discussions with President Mitterrand

## Brazil set for civilian rule Neves seeks growth and a fairer deal

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

Senator Tancredino Neves, the Democratic Alliance candidate, who is almost certain to become Brazil's first civilian president for 20 years, has outlined his economic programme.

Senator Neves, who is supported by the Brazilian Democratic Movement and the Liberal Front breakaway group from the ruling Social Democratic Party (PDS), said it was essential for the economy to grow, but this had to be achieved without permitting inflation to rise.

More jobs had to be created, the work force better paid and wealth more justly distributed.

However, there was no margin for tax increases, and growth should be financed by increased savings. The foreign debt of \$100 billion (\$83 billion) would be renegotiated in a realistic way, and creditors had to realize that a country of 120 million people with serious social problems could not cease growing.

Brazil would have to balance its accounts, and continue with its aggressive exporting policy. Foreign capital would be welcomed, without any trace of xenophobia, as a complement to private enterprise.

Senator Neves warned of the danger of the power of the state increasing. Proper priority has to be given to private enterprise, and the state must not be allowed to become more powerful. If the state's presence becomes excessive, it could interfere overmuch with company decisions, and diminish efficiency.

Priority would be given to the

North-East, where malnutrition and infant mortality were well above Brazil's average. Senator Neves said. Agriculture would also be given special emphasis, as it was essential to maintain food supplies, earn export revenues, and provide employment. More financial autonomy would be given to the states and municipalities, he promised.

The victory of Senator Neves at tomorrow's electoral college meetings now seems "virtually assured. He has the support of twice the number of delegates as his rival, the PDS candidate, Senator Paulo Maluf, whose support has evaporated in recent weeks.

Even President Figueiredo's government has grudgingly accepted that an opposition politician will be Brazil's first civilian President after 20 years of governments led by generals.

This has largely been brought about by most of the political establishment discovering that they were excluded from Senator Maluf's plans. They then set about thwarting him, even if it meant deserting the PDS and allying with the opposition.

The Government initially tried to stop this drift, by threats and other means.

Senator Maluf's chances were finally destroyed by a ruling of the Electoral Court in Brasília, which set aside a decision by the PDS directorate, now dominated by Senator Maluf, that all politicians elected on the PDS ticket in 1982 should be obliged to vote for their party's official candidate, on pain of expulsion and loss of office.

## Swiss MPs favour joining UN

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A milestone in Switzerland's slow shuffle towards joining the United Nations was reached yesterday when the upper house of Parliament voted in favour by 24 votes to 16, of emulating the example set in March by the lower house (112 votes to 78).

The votes are in conformity with the Swiss Government's 1982 recommendation, but because of the constitutional amendment involved, the issue has still to be put to a national referendum. This is not expected before early 1986.

The country is a long-standing member, as well as the host of several specialized UN agencies.

While UN membership by other neutral nations, and Sweden in particular, has gradually dispelled fears that Swiss neutrality would be compromised, many Swiss, particularly in the majority German-speaking cantons, are critical of the world body's failures to resolve international issues and end local wars.

Before yesterday's parliamentary vote, the Foreign Minister, Mr Pierre Aebert, asserted that Switzerland could no longer afford to remain a mere observer, "in the only forum where formation of world peace is discussed".

## Phone call gives win to Kasparov

Moscow (Reuters) - Gary Kasparov, the challenger, won his first game yesterday in a marathon battle against the world chess titleholder Anatoly Karpov.

Karpov, who now leads 5-1, gave up his hope of retaining the title with a 6-0 score by resigning the 32nd game. It was not only Kasparov's first win in this match but the first of his life against Karpov in 35 attempts.

Although it was Kasparov, playing white, who had sealed his 41st move in the adjournment envelope on Wednesday, a night of analysis convinced Karpov and his assistants that the challenger's extra pawn would be enough for a win.

Kasparov, who according to his aides was completely discouraged, has shown tremendous character in the last two games, saving a position in the 31st game some thought desperate before winning yesterday.

The next game, with Karpov playing white, is due to take place on December 17. The game has been postponed from the previous Friday because the Soviet Academy of Sciences booked the hall in which the match is taking place, for a ceremony.

Karpov signalled his resignation in the 32nd game by telephoning the chief arbiter, Svetozar Gligoric of Yugoslavia, an hour and a half before the session was due to begin.

Kasparov's sealed move was straightforward, initiating a race of pawns. The fact that Karpov did not bother to resume showed that even a slightly inferior move would have been enough for Kasparov to win and that experts' overnight analysis confirmed Karpov's position was without hope.

Thirty-second game (Kasparov, white; Karpov, black)

Queen's Indian Defence			
1 P-Q4	2-KF3	3 P-QB3	4 P-K3
5 P-K3	6 P-QB3	7 P-K3	8 P-QB3
9 P-K3	10 P-QB3	11 P-K3	12 P-QB3
13 P-K3	14 P-QB3	15 P-K3	16 P-QB3
17 P-K3	18 P-QB3	19 P-K3	20 P-QB3
21 P-K3	22 P-QB3	23 P-K3	24 P-QB3
25 P-K3	26 P-QB3	27 P-K3	28 P-QB3
29 P-K3	30 P-QB3	31 P-K3	32 P-QB3

Mr George Price, Prime Minister of Belize, faces a close fight today to retain his 30-year political power in the former British colony's first general election since independence in 1981. His People's United Party is challenged by the United Democratic Party of Mr Manuel Esquivel

## Florida asks Washington to pay for Cuban influx

New York (NYT) Florida officials have called on the federal Government to take financial responsibility for an expected influx of tens of thousands of Cubans to the Miami area as a result of an agreement in principle on emigration reached by American and Cuban negotiators this week.

Under the agreement, Cuba would take back every month 100 to 150 of the 2,500 criminals and mental patients who fled to the United States from the Cuban port of Mariel four years ago. In return, the United States would begin regular processing of applications that could lead to as many as 30,000 Cubans a year coming in in addition to 3,000

political prisoners previously promised a haven.

According to Governor Bob Graham, Florida was left with \$150 million (£122 million) in unpaid local and state bills after the 1980 influx. By the end of this decade the number of Hispanic residents in south Florida could approach one million, as the "Marielitos" gain status as permanent residents, then citizens, and become eligible to send for some 300,000 family members in Cuba.

Senator Lawton Chiles and Representative Dante Fascell, both Florida Democrats, joined the Government in requesting that President Reagan take financial responsibility for the new immigrants.

## Blunders erode faith in police

From David Watts, Tokyo

A cartoon strip in a leading Japanese newspaper showed a senior police officer dismissing his staff of detectives for failure to solve the extortion cases against four firms which have plagued the country since March. A junior colleague warns the officer that, if he sacks the men, he will merely add to the criminal population.

The cartoon is doubly wounding for the police - not only has their stock plunged because of lack of success in the extortion cases, but an unusually large number of crimes have been committed recently by serving and retired policemen.

A series of blunders in the long-running extortion case, which have just been revealed, show the police as poorly coordinated and forgetful of the fundamentals of good police work.

The chairman of the body which controls the police, the National Public Safety Commission, Mr Toru Furuya, has admitted a "major failure" and

the extortionists, known as the Glico-Morinaga Gang, after the names of two target companies, appear untouchable.

Glico and Morinaga are two of Japan's leading confectionery firms, up to now the gang's main targets. But the police have revealed that another big food firm, House Food Industrial Company, received an extortion threat last month demanding 100 million yen or the extortion group would start poisoning its products on supermarket shelves. That has already happened to the Morinaga company. Its products have virtually disappeared from the market, staff have been laid off, and the price of its stock has plunged.

In monitoring the gang's most recent attempt to collect extortion money, the police appear to have bungled three opportunities of arresting at least one of the gang. Twice a man on a bicycle thought to have been a member of the gang got away from police, and when a motor patrol officer questioned the driver of a wanted

white estate car he parked behind the vehicle, not in front, and the driver escaped.

The car was later abandoned and in it the police found a radio similar to their own equipment and other items linking the group or individual to the extortion attempts. The recovery of the equipment confirmed that the gang has been monitoring police communications and moving accordingly.

In order to reduce the of communications the gang could monitor, the police limited the number of officers in the know to those directly involved in the dragnet operation. Officers on routine patrol were unaware of what was happening around them, and missed valuable chances.

The gang claimed in its latest extortion threat that it had already received money, and there were hints that when the kidnapped president of the Glico company was released earlier this year he had reached an agreement with the extortionists.

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uates interested in Naval Control of Shipping duties, who would be responsible for the routing of merchant shipping in the event of war.

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Please send me full details. Enquiries from UK residents only.

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_



## THE ARTS

## Cinema

## Characters in a universe of reckless violence

**"That's Not All Folks"**  
ICA

**Dune (pg)**  
Empire, Leicester Square

**Caravan of Courage (u)**  
Odeon, Marble Arch

**The Last Starfighter (pg)**  
Leicester Square Theatre

For the grown-up stuff among the Christmas fare you are advised to go to the ICA, where they are presenting three separate programmes of classic Hollywood cartoons of the forties and fifties. When I was a child Walt Disney was considered edifying enough, but the anarchic violence of "Looney Tunes, Merrie Melodies, and the other seven-minute surrealities from MGM and Warners was considered definitely depraving to the young.

Today some of their aspects - the subversion and occasional unabashed racism - remain as startling. It is clearer now though that this was a golden age of animation, created out of the comic invention and craftsmanship of a remarkable generation of directors - Tex Avery, Isadore "Fritz" Freleng, Chuck Jones, Bob Clampett, Frank Tashler - and the great animation artists like Ken Harris who supported them.

They bequeathed a legacy of characters as memorable as any that came out of Hollywood - those loud, bright outrageous creatures who included Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Sylvester, Elmer Fudd, Droopy, Speedy Gonzales and a host more. They inhabited a universe of reckless violence whose victims were stretched, compressed, shot out of guns, burnt to cinders, flattened like pancakes by anvils or steamrollers and propelled through brick walls, leaving neatly-fretted stencils in memoriam.

Behind it all though there was craft and science. There is much more to animation than making drawings move. These creatures have their own life and substance. The great animators must be masters of the laws governing dynamics, mass, weight and gravity whether they intend to respect or to destroy those laws. These artists knew both their physics and their Maybridge.

Two long-suppressed cartoons in the ICA programmes mischievously parody Disney originals. Bob Clampett's *Coal Black and De Sebben*

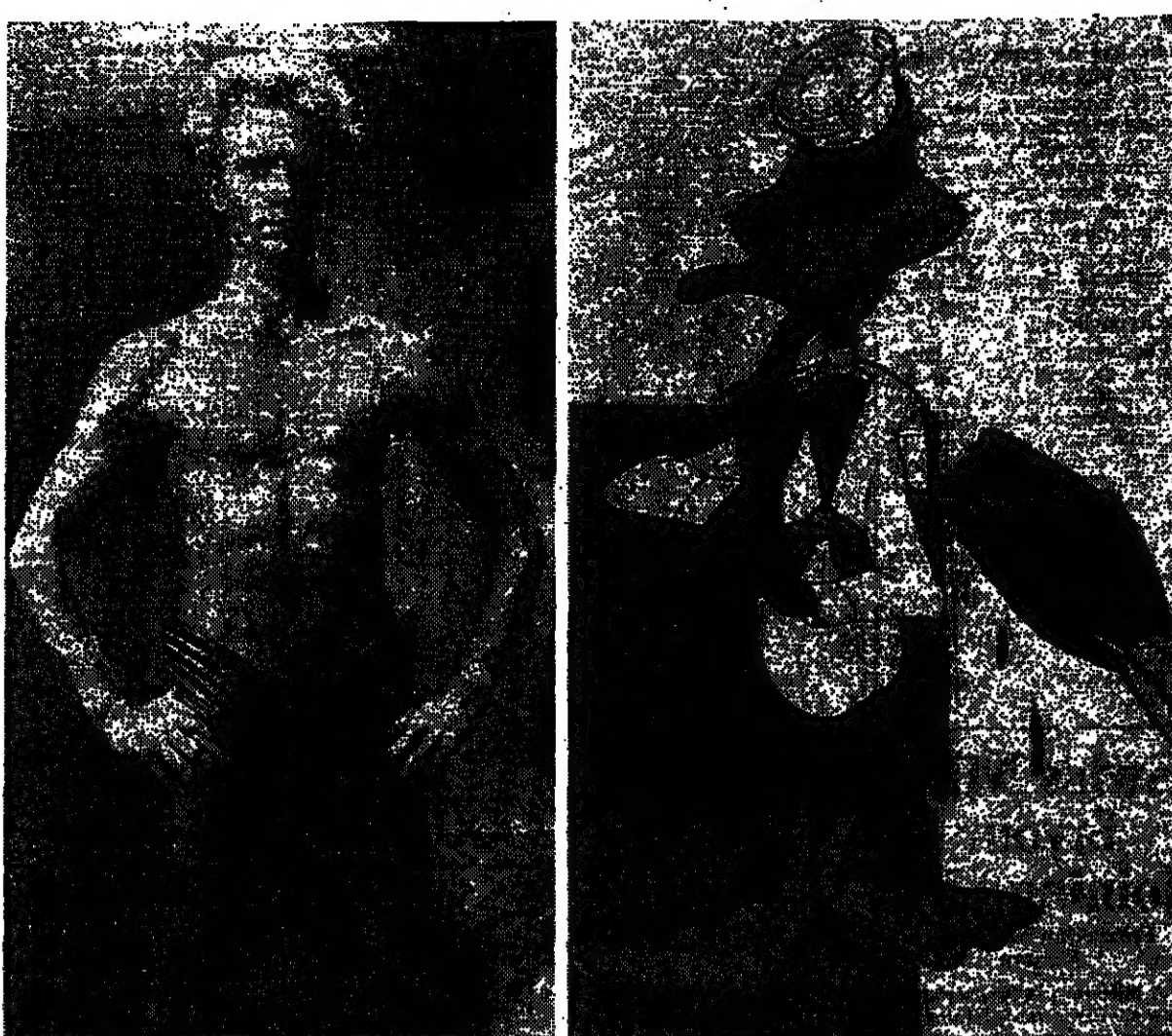
*Ducks* is a brilliant, monstrous anthology of black stereotypes. Tex Avery's *Blitz Wolf* is a parody of *The Three Little Pigs* with a Hitler Wolf and some shocking racist sentiments relating to Japan. The most delicious though is *Duck Amuck*, in which poor Daffy Duck is submitted to the whims of a sadistic animator who capriciously torments him by changing his backgrounds, costumes and shape and, as the most refined cruelty, simply rubs him out.

Today's Hollywood seems exclusively dedicated to making and marketing special effects and synthetic mythologies for our time. *Dune* is one of the most ambitious, spectacular, polished and tedious of the type to date. The tardiness in bringing Frank Herbert's best-selling science fiction novel to the screen - it appeared in 1965 and has already had several sequels - is no doubt explained by the great complexity of the book, which required a mass of elucidatory appendices, and does in the end defeat this adaptation. Even though the first half hour of the film is mostly wordy exposition, while a breathless voice from time to time obliges with additional background information on the biology, geology, geography, technology, zoology and dynamic successions of the embattled cosmos of the eleventh millennium, it is still fairly hard to make sense of what is going on.

The general idea is that the good people of the Universe, the House Atreides, who are white, beautiful, speak American and believe in God, are beleaguered by their enemies, the vile Harkonnens. The Atreides prove victorious when fate sends them a Messiah to lead them to victory in the holy war. The temptation to see metaphors for contemporary American paranoia is increased since the struggle is economic as well as political: the desert of *Dune* produces "the spice" which gives hallucinations of the conquest of space and time. The cosmic war is "Who owns the spice controls the universe."

The queer mixture of motives from classical and biblical mythology, Ruritanian history and science fiction technology is reflected as much in the etymology as the design of the film. The cosmic political system is called the Landsraad and has its Emperor, Dukes, Princes and Barons; but other titles, like the Bene Gesserit and the Kwisatz Haderach have a definite Old Testament ring. Likewise the year 10,991 is envisioned by the production designer Anthony Masters as something between Venice, the Moscow Underground, 3001 and *King's Rhapsody*.

This is not to diminish the visual qualities of the film which is as opulent and spectacular as it should be, having cost a reputed \$40-50m. Crucial to its visual style is the work of the British director of photography



Sting as the saucy catamite in *Dune*, and Daffy under attack in *Duck Amuck*

Freddie Francis. The special effects wizards include Kit West, Albert Whitlock and the monster-maker Carlo Rambaldi, who created E.T. and here supplies some giant earth worms and a king-size tadpole who serves as the Supreme Being. They have tended to revert to traditional mechanical methods like model shots, mattes and puppet animation which in the end generally prove more effective than electronic high-tech.

At least then there is something to look at while the players gabble on about their incomprehensible conflicts, and there are a lot of players to gabble, including Silvana Mangano and Sian Phillips as bald witches, Jose Ferrer as Emperor, Freddie Jones as Freddie Jones and Max Von Sydow as a loss. The most colourful figures are Kenneth McMillan as a poxy, porcine tyrant who floats in the air and Sting as his saucy catamite.

Directors seem doomed to be swamped by technology, and there is nothing to betray *Dune* as the work of

the talented David Lynch, who made *Eraserhead* and *The Elephant Man*. No more might you guess that John Korty, who efficiently directed and photographed *Caravan of Courage* was once the idiosyncratic director of *Funnyman* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. The reason *Dune* of *Caravan of Courage* is further to exploit the Ewok, the cuddly teddy-bear creatures in pixy boots from *Return of the Jedi*. Here the spunky little things breed a couple of unspeaking children who have crashed in a space craft, and help them rescue their parents from a giant monkey-monster.

As usual the technology outclasses the script. Even the very young might resent the elementary treatment of the human relationships and the dreadful banality of the dialogue. Fortunately the Ewoks mostly 'speak in squeaks and body language. The star Ewok Wicket, is made cute and personable by a three-foot English youth called Warwick Davis.

The *Last Starfighter*, directed by Nick Castle from a script by Jonathan Betuel, is less ambitious than these, but wins out by humour and emphasis on the human aspects of its story. The young hero (Lance Guest) is a likeable lad who helps his mother manage their run-down trailer park with its cranky denizens. He also happens to be an electronic games wizard, a talent which leads to his recruitment by an emissary from outer space, played by the aggressively impish Robert Preston.

The attraction of the film is the way it constantly keeps the human element in view; the lad's place on earth is taken temporarily by an outer-space clone, who has some droll difficulties in standing in for his amorous involvements. The special effects are all done exclusively, economically and satisfactorily with computer animations.

David Robinson

Television  
In the asylum

Witold Starecki's *Asylum* (Forty Minutes, BBC 2) was a distinguished and distressing documentary, which examined the plight of mental patients in the Polish asylum of Choroszcz: they have the choice of becoming unpaid farm labourers, living in the homes of local peasants, or of remaining in a hospital which displayed an institutional horror which had to be seen to be believed. It was not an easy film to watch, therefore, as they shuffled through the patched and peeling corridors - apparently in a drug-induced torpor, except for the occasional scream or cry. One woman was seen calling from behind a barred window, "Mummy, mummy, take me away!"

Some of them were taken away but only to "foster homes", where they began their labour in the flat and misty fields. It became clear that, in some cases, these disturbed people had ceased to be patients who seemed to be as hard and unyielding as the soil. Who could see this programme and talk about "the dignity of labour"? And yet others for the first time clearly

found a measure of affection and comradeship: it was the merit of this documentary that it showed both aspects of the case, and that it did so without polemic or obtrusive sentimentality.

To say that it was beautifully filmed is perhaps to suggest that its primary appeal was aesthetic, but that would be unfair to both the subjects and the makers of the programme. It was shaped and edited like a feature film but only in the sense that it gave significant emphases where they were required. By taking such care over presentation (unlike the rough-edged "fly on the wall" technique of some documentaries), the human truth of the situation was displayed more profoundly - and, in the process, these narrow and damaged lives were given a significance which they really possessed. In the dumb or deranged, and the relationships which others form with them, we may see the true shape of the world. As a study of a rural culture, *Asylum* was extraordinary; as a record of human affliction, it was unique.

Peter Ackroyd

## Opera

## Same old Met

**Simon Boccanegra**  
Metropolitan, New York

The production of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, recently unveiled is significant in that it evidences certain traits which have become important in the house. It is not, strictly speaking, a new production, although it is new to the Metropolitan Opera. It originated in Chicago, and travelled to San Francisco, and along the way lost the name of its designer, Pier Luigi Pizzi.

The massive, often handsome and ultra-traditional sets

cannot of a voice resounded about the house, and he gave a strongly-defined performance, if one that was essentially extroverted in its emotions. His voice has, since his difficulties of a few years ago, become roughened and not a little hollow in its basic sound, and has lost that innate lyric quality it once possessed. Milnes, therefore, must work to project humanity of the role through the singing, particularly in the great Council Chamber Scene ensemble, and he must work to differentiate the timbre of the voice from the gravel of Peter Glossop's Paolo - an excellent character sketch, strongly cast.



Paul Plishka as Jacopo Fiesco and Sherrill Milnes's Simon Boccanegra

go-uncredited in the programme, probably because Pizzi's production has been placed by the very unobtrusive movement blockings of Thio Capobianco.

James Levine, who conducted, was in fact more central to the production than either the producer or the designer. He shaped the performance in the style, if not in the specifics, of Karajan's methods in Salzburg - attention to ensembles, to the integration of soloists and chorus, the correct chording within the orchestra and the correct intonations between the orchestra in the pit and the off-stage band. This was an extremely musically-orientated performance, reflected in the choice of singers and in the placing of vocalism above acting ability. If the result was more a concert in costume than a dramatic entry, that result was in part justified by the power of Verdi's music, as drama, and by Verdi's consistent focus on the vicissitudes of the reformed sea-dog Boccanegra.

Sherrill Milnes's Boccanegra is no subtle portrait, either vocally or histrionically. His

Milnes's voice, however, is of a different quality from the soft-grained bass of Paul Plishka as Fiesco, so that, if Fiesco is here heard in more grandly than vengeful patrician guise, by the same token the reconciliation duet with Boccanegra in the last act is made into a meeting of like minds.

Anna Tomowa-Sintow, as Amelia, was doubtless chosen for her vocal strength and rounded tone rather than for Italianate lyricism, and once past her opening aria, which was both solidly sung and fluttering around the pitch, she gave a performance notable for its good vocal sense rather than for its ability to touch the heart. Vasile Moldoveanu's Gabriele, again, represented clean, powerful and somewhat neutral tone singing: one admires the quality of the voice and the directness of approach.

In sum, then, a very conservative view of Verdi's work, predicated on vocal and ensemble considerations, taking precedence over staging ones. The Met, it seems, wishes to remain the cliché of the Met.

Patrick J. Smith

## Concert

**Gothic Voices**  
Wigmore Hall

Carolling was not high on the agenda on Wednesday night, but the rolling, tolling rhythms of the fifteenth-century advent carol "Nova, nova" gave Margaret Philip, Rogers Covey-Crump, Leigh Nixon and John Mark Ainsley a good opportunity to have a lusty sing-together at the end of a finely-balanced and exquisitely-performed evening of fifteenth-century song.

This anonymous jiggling ditty with its punning refrain was one of the simplest and certainly best known pieces in their programme. Yet Gothic Voices brought to it all the subtlety of inflection and sharp flavouring of verbal and musical phrase that they had earlier lavished on the complexities of Dufay and Machaut.

Guillaume de Machaut who, chronologically, crept into the programme only by the skin of his teeth, provided its most enticing variety. Garnished with the extravaganzas of the old ways, he club-sandwiched a song, "De trinite cuer Quant vraye Certe di", was relished by the group's three tenors. Machaut, at his most sensuous, appeared in the three teasing vocal lines of "Dame je suis criez/Fins cuers douz". As the singers' voices chased and collided with each other within a strangely meandering stiffness of timbre, there was a sensation of sound itself being tried and tested. No less telling was the ebb and flow of harmonic suggestion in the unaccompanied melody of Margaret Philip's beautifully-turned "Dame a qui".

As a foil to Machaut there was Dufay, breathing a lighter, headier air. His "Jattendray tant" had started the evening, with its coppersy, plangent accents and lifting pace poised to perfection. The gentle undulations of his "Quel fronte signorile" had ended a small group of love songs, sung, as a contemporary writer assured us, only by "bad, thieving boys" intent on incest, sodomy and card-playing.

Anecdotes like these, chanced upon in his researches by the group's director Christopher Page, were scattered sparsely at just the right moments in the evening, and typified the fine balance between earnest edification and entertainment which this group has to a nicety. Their forthcoming third record, *The Garden of Zephirus*, doubtless takes its name from the anonymous "Na pas longtemps que trouvez Zephirus", a delightfully florid horticultural conceit, somewhere between chanson, rondeau and ballade,

Hilary Finch

## Theatre

## The world according to Adrian Mole



Simon Schatzberger as Adrian Mole, bedevilled by adults and proliferating pustules

**The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole**

Wyndham's

There is no unscrambling the formula of a best-seller, but, judging from the extraordinary mixture of fur coats and scruffy school blazers thronging Wyndham's on Wednesday night, one highly marketable element in Sue Townsend's *Secret Diary* is that by blowing the gaff on the sex war of every age group from the vantage point of a 13-year-old, wrestling with proliferating pustules and an accident-prone dog, the book managed to include something for everybody.

The stage version is her own work (helped out with some highly apposite songs, based on the poems of A. Mole, by Ken Howard and Alan Bleasdale); it is well up to the standard of their previous plays. Another adapter might have clung too closely to the pattern of the diary. As its author Miss Townsend has assumed full licence to rethink

the whole thing, while retaining the main bones of the story.

This could have been the show's downfall. It is one thing for Adrian to lope off to the bedroom and note down the latest domestic calamity as a means of putting himself over as a neglected, misunderstood intellectual whose true value the world will come to acknowledge. It is another to show the parents screaming at each other, and the next-door husband conspiring with his mother off to Sheffield, leaving Adrian to cope with a vile-tempered, jobless father.

Miss Townsend and her director, Graham Watkins, get around this by treating the house and its adult occupants in seaside postcard style. No punches are pulled. But the middle-aged characters come over as ritualized mannikins, forever erupting into push-button passions, and giving a thoughtful boy plenty of cause to shake his head over the incomprehensible follies of adult behaviour.

As a setting, Anthony Dean even presents a gauze-fronted dolls' house, with tiny rooms smothered in garish yellow wallpaper, and a roof that doubles as a calendar.

With Adrian himself, admiring and self-pitying self-portraiture has to give way to actuality; here presented by Simon Schatzberger as a crumpled, unathletic loser,

drudging round the house in a lurching apron, stoically submitting to the school bully, and periodically shedding his glum, long-suffering looks for beams of infatuated rapture when the well-connected Pandora bestows a glance in his direction.

The production has not skimped on the surrounding parts. Among the best of them are Sheila Colling's grandma, descending with the full force of the Evergreen Club to demolish the school bully; and Katherine Schlessinger as a high-powered nympholeptic leading the red socks rebellion. Brisk and brutal as it is, the show also has plenty to say about adult pain and affection; as in Su Elliott's sad cameo of the skinny, much-discarded mistress; and David Davenport, marvellous as the 99-year-old pensioner, last seen in a wheelchair minuet unaided old and youth against the tyranny of the middle years.

Irving Wardle

## Red Riding Hood

Theatre Royal, Stratford East

"No hair, no style, no snap to his garter", says the Dame at one point of some inferior male. Stratford East's centenary pantomime has plenty of all three. From its very first number, a merciless revue parody of a panto opening chorus, Philip Hedley's production manages to be immensely enjoyable sophisticated camp while keeping the kids happy with wolf-spotting routines, inviting them up to test a Heath Robinson beast-trap and filling the stage with delicious furry animals to entice

members of the cast into the monster's lair.

The hairy horror himself (Michael Bertenshaw) is a gastronome barely satisfied with goldfish, chicken and hamster soup prepared by two menials in the guise of a butcher (Bob Crichtley) and a head waiter (James Saxon). Kate Hardie, the 16-year-old heroine, is a surly, masculine miss from a broken home while the lantern-jawed Colin Bennett makes glamorous old Granddad with a rich line in acid asides and endless vitality ("She can dance the night through, looking what, 32, if her Guinness is topped with gin").

The music (by Brian Protheroe) and lyrics are witty and intelligent, far above the average, and David Cregan's tight script leaves you wanting more. High points of hilarity include a sipping ensemble recommending two herbs for increasingly grotesque ailments, a quick-fire quartet of stinky nursery insults, and a neat duet for the henchmen asking "What are you doing for dinner tonight?", a veiled invitation to be the dinner rather than eat it. These gentlemen also justify their grisly trade in "It's a Living", a Brechtian ironic number making a barely concealed social comment.

Specialty good work, too, from Marjorie Yates as a tweedy old party prowling around with a blunderbuss, if that indeed is what it is, and from the ample persons of Jo Warne and Richard Tate as Red Riding Hood's flustered middle-aged mum and her check-suited Welsh bank manager, still at the heavy courting stage after seven years. Thanks, Stratford - and have a happy hundredth birthday next week.

Anthony Masters

ROY DOTRICE  
as Muggins

SHEILA BURRELL  
as Miss Haversham

LEON GREENE  
as Joe Gargery

TOMMY JAY  
as Joggery

CHARLES LEWSEN  
as Wemmick

LYNN CLAYTON  
as Estella

COLLIN JOHNSON  
as Herbert Pocket

IAN McCURRACH  
as Pip

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# Rebuilding their lives after the horror

Susan Arbuthnot began to worry when she heard a bomb had exploded in Knightsbridge, where her 23-year-old daughter Jane was on duty as a WPC. Shortly afterwards, a visit from Jane's chief superintendent Mike Haines confirmed her worst fears.

Almost a year later, Mrs Arbuthnot thumbed through a box containing hundreds of letters sent by friends and unknown sympathizers. Two photographs contain the floral tributes and pictures of the wreaths and flowers sent to Jane.

"It hurts, it still physically hurts to think about that afternoon. You can't believe this thing has happened to your



Painful memories: Susan and Jake Arbuthnot with their son Richard.

daughter", she said. "It was a nightmare time and it's absolutely true that as time goes by and you throw yourself into other things the nightmare lifts, but the pain is still there."

"Events like the Brighton bomb can trigger off your emotions. Or when I see pretty things in a shop window, Jane was very fond of pretty clothes."

"Mike has been wonderful to all of us these last 12 months, but there is a limit to how much you can impose upon friends. In the end I was helped by a marvellous member of the Samaritans. She just sat and listened to me for hour upon hour."

Her husband Jake has found comfort in the church and now attends Chelsea police station's local church, St Luke's. The couple have also drawn strength from their own close family life. This summer their son Richard was married. Charles, who at 25 was closest to Jane, obtained his degree in electronic engineering and daughter Sally is married and living nearby at Kingston-upon-Thames.

It was also the needs of family that strengthened Mrs Maureen Dodd, widow of Inspector Stephen Dodd. The couple were separated, but the bond of their children, Anthony (12), Melanie (10) and Suzanne (8), brought the family together at a party two days before Stephen was critically injured. The youngsters were looking forward to spending Christmas Eve with their father - the day he died.

"I told the children their daddy had died saving the lives of lots of other people and that we've always got to remember that", said Mrs Dodd. "Naturally they cried, although they knew Stephen had been in hospital, because of his injuries. I told them it's no good being

upset. We've got to live with this and be as brave as their daddy was. I was advised they should go to his funeral. I was not sure about this, but I see now this was necessary for their grieving. They could see it was the end and I'm sure this has helped them a lot."

After the funeral Anthony tried to become the man of the family. But still only a child, he followed his mother everywhere.

"His school work had deteriorated and I felt it was the best thing for him to be in the all-male environment of a boarding school. He totally enjoys the life, enjoys sports and plays the clarinet and piano. He is a big boy, just like his dad and needs to be fully occupied."

With Anthony at boarding school, Maureen Dodd began rebuilding her life. She moved to a different area, sent her daughters to a small private day school, immersed herself in the final year of a London University humanities degree and took on the voluntary job of a parish administrator at St Luke's Church, Chelsea.

"We had become public property locally, objects of curiosity. We could never forget and it was necessary to get totally away from everything."

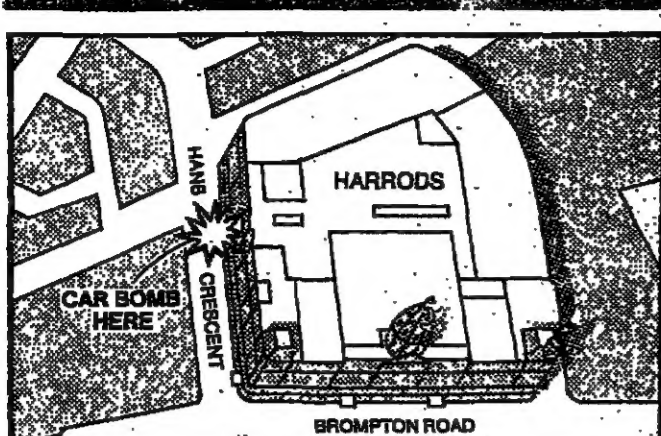
The aftermath of their father's death had different effects upon the girls. "Melanie is very self-contained, she hides her feelings which is not a good thing. Suzie has always been very highly strung but now it's worse. I once said to her, 'Suzie, we should be closer now', but she just turned away. When I asked her what was the matter she said, 'It's Daddy' and I thought, 'Oh God'. We talked about Steve a lot. She imagines him dressed as a policeman in heaven."

Mrs Dodd received a payment from the police welfare fund plus £5,000 from the Knightsbridge Fund, now invested in her children's education.

To the outside world no Harrods survivor made a move to close one chapter and open another than Nigel Kennedy-Cochran-Patrick. Six months after his wife Jane was killed as she shopped for a Christmas present for their two-year-old son James, he had met and married Emma Collins. The 23-year-old new mistress of her husband's inherited Scottish estate is perhaps the only other person who knows how often and how poignantly that previous chapter returns to haunt his private moments.

"Time has gone by, but you can't forget someone just because they have been blown out of your life", says Emma. "Obviously he has got his memories and I know that he gets upset even though he tries to keep it to himself. It will always be a shock for him, a horror he will never get over. And nor will James. He hardly remembers Jane, but he will always live with the knowledge of how his mother died."

"If Nigel appears to have forgotten, if he appears very cold to some people, it's because he doesn't want to live his memories through anyone but himself."



On December 17 last year, an IRA car bomb exploded outside Harrods killing six people - three police officers, the young wife of a Scottish land owner, a journalist, and an American businessman.

Next Monday, the first anniversary of the blast, a second memorial service will be held.

Suzanne Greaves reports on how the bereaved are learning to cope and how those who escaped look back on an event that changed their lives.

"We are very happy, but I know what people are saying about us getting married so soon after Jane died. My family still makes comments, still talks about it. I suppose we have offended their conventions. While some families find the sharing of their loss is a therapy, others prefer to close ranks, to keep away from public gaze. Mrs Siobhan Lane, widow of Sergeant Noel Lane, stays with her family. Her only contact with her husband's former colleagues was a request to see an Old English sheep dog, similar to her own."

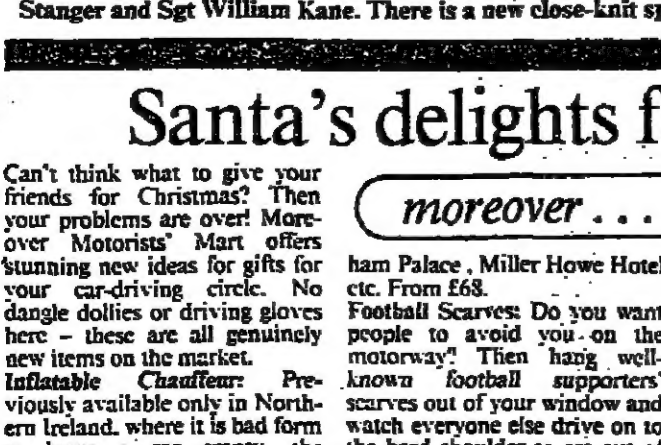
In Barrow-in-Furness, the mother and father of *Daily Express* journalist Philip Geddes also mourn. Described as one of the paper's rising young stars, Philip had been seen in Harrods gift department 10 minutes before the bomb went off. It is believed he left the store to investigate bomb rumours.

Thousands of miles across the Atlantic in New Jersey, Mr Gerald Salvesen, whose son Kenneth was working in London when he died in the explosion, watched video film of the first memorial service sent to him by the Chelsea police.

"Every time he comes to



New life: Nigel Kennedy-Cochran-Patrick, now remarried, with his son James.



Harrods staff: Nurse Anne Flanagan, divisional manager Ron Donnelly, nurse Rathy Hartharan and James Diplock outside the store.

Back at work: PC Martyn Holgate, Sgt Andrew Melham, Sgt Christopher Stanger and Sgt William Kane. There is a new close-knit spirit at Chelsea.

Close family: Maureen Dodd and children Anthony (12), Melanie (10) and Suzanne (8).

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London he pops in here for a chat which could be up to two hours", says Michael Farbrother, Acting Chief Superintendent of Chelsea. "He wants to know everything, how his son died and what happened to the other families. I don't think it's generally known that Kenneth Salvesen left a wife, Karen, and a young son. But the whole family is anxious to talk only to us. I shall be sending them a video of the second memorial service."

Then there are the survivors whose afternoon shopping expedition ended in a casualty department. When they meet, for a quiet reunion, as they plan to do, their thoughts will be vested not in themselves but focused generously on those who died.

Stockbroker Robert Brown said: "Like everyone else, I have this sense of guilt that I was allowed to live. Having survived that day I now feel part of a special family. As a result of the perforated eardrums he sustained in the explosion, Robert finds conversation impossible in a crowd. Solicitor Sarah Cornish, injured by flying shrapnel, describes herself today as "composed". But she was astonished at how deeply she was affected recently when the Law Courts

in which she was working were alerted to a bomb scare in Fleet Street. And if taxi driver Tony Araniello, from Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, had not been slowed down by traffic as he made his way towards the empty Harrods rank he may have been another victim.

"Now I notice parked cars and wonder if there is anything unusual about them. I notice the parcels passengers bring into the cab, I watch television and remember the feeling that came over me as I saw the pictures of the hotel rubble and the faces of the survivors from the Brighton hotel bomb."



It was Sgt William Kane, a Chelsea officer for 15 years, who took the IRA bomb warning call from the Samaritans. It was he who drove the police car carrying Insp Dodd and Sgt Lane to Harrods.



The missing tip of a left finger is a permanent reminder of Sgt Christopher Stanger's brush with fate. He now looks under cars for possible bombs before getting in. Sgt Andrew Melham, who was blown into a gutter and spent weeks critically ill, admits he does the same.

Sgt Melham had sped to Harrods with PC Martyn Holgate as part of the initial bomb alert. They had been joined by Jane Arbuthnot. The true shock of the

aftermath came, home to officers in the weeks that followed. Some men came out in spots, others suffered shoulder strain, neck tension and nagging headaches.

With a severe thigh gash on the mend, 23-year-old Martyn Holgate was advised to seek psychiatric help. He was told that talking over the events with others would be the best therapy. Now he has bought a home in Hertfordshire to get away from London on days off. Christopher Stanger, who suffered internal injuries, was initially put on "light duties", but is now back full-time at Kensington station. Andrew Melham, on the critical list with collapsed lung and back injuries, has made a remarkable recovery and is also back to full-time work.

PC John Gordon, who lost both legs in the attack, fulfilled a personal vow by returning to work last Monday in the administrative department of the dog section. With wife Sheila and sons Andrew and Stuart - born after his father's terrible accident - he has moved home, determined to make a new start.

WPC Pamela White, who was talking to Jane Arbuthnot as the bomb exploded, believes December 17 should never be forgotten and has immersed herself in work at Richmond Police Station.

"It could have been me," says Pamela. "Inspector Stephen Dodd was killed too. We must remember them."

The spirit that has drawn together the shopkeepers, housewives and policemen in Chelsea, extends to Harrods itself. The store's chairman, Mr Alec Craddock, and its general manager, Mr Graham Brown, whose joint decision not to evacuate the packed store undoubtedly saved hundreds of lives, are both visibly proud of their staff serving this year's Christmas shoppers.

In the Harrods mini-hospital clinic, Sisters Rathy Hartharan and Anne Flanagan agree that no hospital casualty work had prepared them for the scene that day. The two women donned their red security hats and seized packs of first aid dressings as the coded staff alert was relayed through the store's intercom system.

Amid the debris of the men'swear department, which received the full force of the blast, they tended the injured and accompanied stretchers through Harrods' underground tunnel to the comparative safety of Trevor Square to await ambulances.

A uniformed supervisor trained in first aid, Mr James Diplock, helped comfort PC Gordon while Mr Ron Donnelly, divisional manager, emerged unscathed from the wreckage of his office to move shoppers away from the danger of falling glass.

Staff volunteered to work on Sunday sweeping up the debris and dusting the stock. They were back behind their counters at 9am on Monday. Public figures turned up to show their

support, and among the first shoppers were Mr and Mrs Arbuthnot.

Christmas trade took a "substantial dip" in the days that followed, but by the Christmas Eve it had begun to improve. The January sale did a record £12.4 million business and by January 29 Harrods became the first European store to break a £200 million turnover figure for the fiscal year.

And this year's Christmas shoppers are sending Harrods cash tills ringing with all the indications of a massive present-buying and food-buying spree. The heavy trading pattern began in November with overseas tourists shopping early to take advantage of a weak pound. Harrods has no plans to boost trade further by Sunday opening.

The 12 months which have followed the Harrods bomb have been as remarkable for what has not materialized as for every story of fortitude and resilience. Nowhere among the mourning families, the injured and the thousands trapped in a web of events is to be found any admission of hatred for the IRA. It is as though any such admission would only hand a victory to the terrorists - a victory that each victim is determined to deny them.

## Remembered in letters of gold

A fund set up to help families of the dead and critically injured has raised £310,000. The Knightsbridge Fund was administered by House of Fraser as a trust. Trustees included Lord Tonypandy (chairman), Geoffrey Dear, assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard, and Councillor Mrs Joan Hanham, mayor of Kensington and Chelsea at the time of the bombing.

Initial payments of £1,000 were made to each family, and the trustees made further payments if needed, considering particularly the welfare of children.

Next year, a memorial stone dedicated to the three dead police officers will be unveiled outside Harrods, near the spot where the bomb exploded. It has been paid for, and will be erected by the Police Memorial Fund, founded this year by film director Michael Winner. The granite stone, standing 4ft 6ins high, has cost about £5,000. The names of the police officers and the Metropolitan Police badge are inscribed in gold on the stone.

Money to the Police Memorial Fund now stands at £45,000, and donations have been received from the Metropolitan Police, Harrods, the Home Secretary Leon Brittan, Sir Keith Joseph and Elton John.

Permission has been given by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the stone memorial stone to be erected on the pavement in Hans Crescent next to one of the Harrods stone pillars.

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SOLUTION to No 520: ACROSS: 8 Establishment, 9 Tin, 10 Orientate, 11 Palm, 12 Mallory, 13 Rubella, 14 Cuffs, 15 Salad days, 16 Tre, 17 Rightful owner, 18 Pen-up, 19 Stanza, 20 Abnormal, 21 Ciliun, 22 Chin, 23 Beaf, 24 Zest, 25 Sou, 26 Incision, 27 Off, 28 Rosary, 29 Beluga, 30 Abacus, 31 Friend, 32 Sheers, 33 Dote.

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Can't think what to give your friends for Christmas? Then your problems are over! More-over Motorists' Mart offers stunning new ideas for gifts for your car-driving circle. No dangle dollies or driving gloves here - these are all genuinely new items on the market.

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## FRIDAY PAGE

# How Sonia learned to be a Gandhi

**Mrs Indira Gandhi's murder has turned the spotlight onto her son Rajiv and his wife Sonia. As elections loom Michael Hamlyn, our correspondent in India, reports on the changes in Sonia's life**

The beef of Calcutta is renowned in India as the finest quality available in the country. The Muslim butchers there have a reputation second to none and when Sonia Gandhi, the Italian daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, telephoned her Muslim friends to come over for a beef barbecue no-one was much surprised.

Her Hindu husband Rajiv, then merely a pilot for Indian Airlines, had flown back from Calcutta with a special sample of the city's produce. No religious Hindu, of course, would have anything to do with the stuff but in those days Rajiv was not to be regarded as such. His father was a Parsee and since the only way of becoming a Parsee is to have a Parsee father, he could excuse such a heterodox diet by disclaiming religious inhibition.

Not any more. Now that he is Prime Minister himself, he has made every effort to appear a regular Kashmiri brahmin like his mother and grandfather.

The funeral ceremony he conducted for his mother, witnessed by millions of Indians on Indian television as well as by hundreds of millions around the world, was firmly based on the Vedic rites of the Hindu religion. On the first day of his election campaign he went to the holiest Hindu city, Varanasi, to pay his respects to Lord Shiva at the Golden Temple beside the River Ganges.

His wife, meanwhile, is doing her best to appear as much like a good and dutiful Hindu wife as it is possible for an Italian to be. She never appears in public these days without her head demurely covered with the pall, the free end of her sari. Gone are the days when she shopped with her friends at boutiques in smart South Delhi where manufacturers exporting to the West display their wares.

She no longer sports the long boots and chunky sweaters that kept her Latin blood warm in the chill of a Delhi December, and she is never seen in the *kurtas* and *churidars*, the tunic and narrow trousers that many

westerners affect when sporting Indian dress.

"The Prime Minister's wife has very firm ideas on what she should or should not do," said a senior official in Mr Gandhi's office, and added with obvious approval: "She absolutely does not see any journalists, nor does anybody close to her speak about her."

In any Indian social function you are likely to find the men talking of politics or share prices and the women sitting separately at the other end discussing more domestic concerns. The same thing happens in Italy today so the social arrangements will not have come as a total surprise to the former Miss Sonia Maino.

Sonia was born 36 years ago, the daughter of a small businessman from Cremona, near Turin. She was in Cambridge to improve her English and found herself sitting across from darkly handsome Rajiv Gandhi. They fell in love.

The elder son of the Indian Prime Minister had been found a place at Trinity College, where Lord Butler was Master, thanks to the Butler family's connection with Uttar Pradesh where the Nehru family first came to prominence.

In fact Rajiv's stay on the banks of the river Cam was otherwise less

than successful and a tactful withdrawal was permitted soon afterwards. A spell at Imperial College in London provided no further proof of intellectual ability in the future leader of his country and a second withdrawal took him to the Pilots' School in Bangalore where he trained to fly Indian Airline Boacings.

In the meantime he told his mother of his intentions towards Sonia. Mrs Gandhi was not pleased. The Indian political community is particularly sensitive to allegations of foreign influence at the heart of government and for the Prime Minister's son to have a foreign bride could have been an electoral liability.

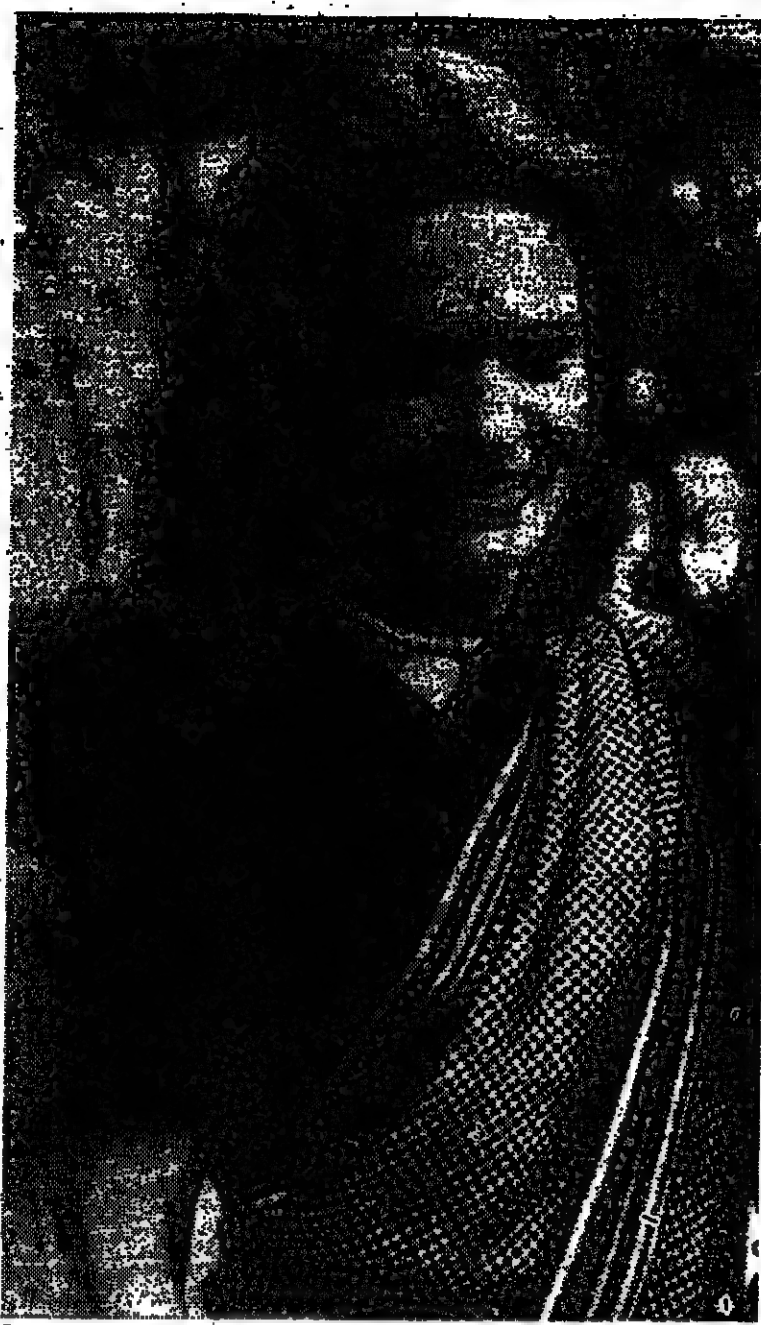
She advised a cooling off period. But when it ended with the couple's fervour for each other undiminished she allowed the marriage to go ahead. After all Rajiv had no political ambitions. Indeed, he claimed total lack of interest in politics.

After the marriage and the birth of a daughter and a son, Priyanka and Rahul, the couple became one of the more decorative pairs on the glossy upper class circuit in Delhi. Sonia was featured in the fashionable magazines as one of the jet-set.

"It was all wrong," says one of her friends from those days. "She was never one for dancing and celebrating in public. She has always been a domestic type." Another friend says: "She is actually very quiet, shy and sensitive. Her whole life has always revolved around Rajiv and the children."

These qualities and her culinary abilities also endeared her to her mother-in-law. "Mrs Gandhi liked Italian food," says a constant visitor to the Prime Minister's house in those days. "I think it reminded her of her own days in Europe. Sonia is very domestic and even grows her own herbs. She often used to give little pots of basil as presents."

The comparison between Mrs Gandhi's two daughters-in-law has been quite striking. Sanjay's wife, and now widow, Menaka, who came from a straight-laced Sikh military



Sonia Gandhi, now at home in a sari. Right, arriving with husband Rajiv and family for Indira Gandhi's last rites before cremation

family, turned out to be a disappointment, failing out terminally with Mrs Gandhi and setting up a party in opposition to her. The foreigner Sonia, meanwhile, of whom Mrs Gandhi was so suspicious in the beginning rapidly became the favourite - the daughter Mrs Gandhi never had. A friend says: "I don't think Mrs Gandhi



**When Mrs Gandhi was shot it was Sonia crying 'Mummy, Mummy' who rushed her into a car and cradled her head on the way to hospital?**

residence, but no one thought to use it until after the event. In the end the ambulance was used to take the wounded assassin to hospital.

When Sanjay Gandhi died in a flying accident Mrs Gandhi's worst fears had been realised and the glossy couple from the Delhi social register had to become politically involved. It meant a number of

sacrifices on Sonia's part. Her children were taken away from their schools, so as not to endanger other children by their proximity. The kitchen Hindi she had picked up was developed into a political tool to enable her to address women's rallies in her husband's constituency. Her Italian nationality became a political issue. The fact that she travelled on an Indian passport, though technically she was still Italian, was raised in Parliament. Last year she finally became an Indian citizen.

If any Italian company ever wins a government contract someone always manages to attribute it to Sonia's influence. The Italian community in Delhi, in a deliberate move to protect itself against this kind of canard, has now distanced itself from her. Her sister Nadia who was married to a Spanish diplomat serving in Delhi has been transferred with her husband elsewhere.

A friend says: "She once said to me: 'Just between you and me, I hope I never live to see the day when Rajiv goes into politics.' But really she has always tried to do whatever her husband wanted - just like a good Hindu wife."

## Deliver me from the deadly British letter-box

If you ever find yourself on an unmade road on a wet day with a copy of the 1984 London South Yellow Pages under your arm in a flimsy polythene bag do not, whatever you do, allow the neck of that bag to point in any direction but upwards. If you do, the tome will slip out like so much wet fish and land, face down and open, in a puddle of brown water.

I know, whereof I speak because for the greater part of last week (or so it seems) I have been delivering that brightly coloured volume from door to South London door. An indignity for one in my position but, because this unfortunately involves having to live mostly off a real-world (ie. non-journalistic) income, when I hear of a good thing - or what sounds like a nice little earner - I am inclined to exclaim, "Okay, let's go!" Delivering Yellow Pages?

You probably thought, as I did, that the Post Office or British Telecom or whoever were responsible for this task. They were, but are no more. The job has been, as they say, privatized and taken over by a company which seems determined to bring to the distribution of Yellow Pages a novel and quite awe-inspiring punt.

The result of their scrupulous attention to detail is that the house-to-house distributor has to set out armed with enormous

### FIRST PERSON



THIS ISN'T MY CHRISTMAS BONUS... IT'S MY DANGER MONEY!!

batches of cards bearing the names and addresses of the individual punters (which wash off in the rain), other cards for pushing through the letter-box when nobody answers the door, pens for losing and between times marking these cards after a complicated system, several hundred "polybags", and, of course, the Yellow Pages themselves.

Most of this I learned only when it was too late to back out. But I had a friend with an unusually roomy car (capacity upward of 400 London Souths) and the reward of an aristocratic fancy that it might have been rather fun to be a postman. The last few days have put paid to that.

Consider, for example, the

letter-box. Leaving aside the difficulties of locating the damned things (they can be anywhere) and the fact that they are invariably too small to accommodate anything bulkier than the latest Prize Draw offer, the really dreadful thing about them is their sheer brute strength.

The average suburban letter-box is kept shut by coiled industrial-strength springs and once you have overcome these by the simple expedient of shredding these fingers, you are invariably faced with a second flap of even greater ferocity. Anything as flimsy as a Yellow Pages calling-card is liable to end up confounded and blood-stained up the innards of the machine. Surely no more effective device for keeping letters out of a house was ever conceived.

Then there is the "glazed porchway", as estate agents call it. Nothing wrong with this in itself, and very useful for ripening tiny green tomatoes, but you would be amazed how many people equip their glazed porchways with a Yale lock but no letter-box, no knocker, no bell. There is the long driveway, too, rightly accused among the door-to-door classes for its doubling of time and effort. Why will the British not adopt the American-style mail box?

There are the security-conscious blocks of flats where you have to stab 10 buttons in turn before eventually a voice crackles out of the grille and you have a split-second to shove the door open.

I shall view the postman with increased sympathy and respect from now on. Yet, for all its hardships, there is something to be said for the door-to-door life, if only as sociological ground-work. I thought at least I knew my own suburb but I found it to be a demographic jigsaw of quite extraordinary complexity and variety, with almost every social class and income level represented, all rubbing shoulders with each other.

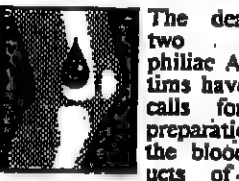
Within one small street you find houses semi-detached, others with front gardens given over to car-breaking and mud-pie manufacture, others immaculate in fresh paint, "coach lamps" and Hoovered greenery. The ingrained individualism of the English is most apparent in what appear to be the most regimented streetscapes but where no two of anything are ever, in fact, the same.

The moment of supreme felicity, however, is when you press an ordinary-looking doorbell and are serenaded with the opening bars of *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, *The Stars and Stripes* or the *Ode to Joy* (arr. Stockhausen). Suddenly it all seems worth while - the aching feet (if only your fingers could do the walking), the semi-dislocated arms, the soggy shoes, the tedium.

It may be too much work for too little money - but you do see life.

Nigel Andrew

### The vital factor



The deaths of two haemophilic Aids victims have led to calls for safer preparations of the blood products of which haemophiliacs rely.

The disease results from a genetic defect carried by women but affecting men. It leaves the sufferer with reduced levels of the vital blood clotting factor, factor VIII, and in severe cases the lack of factor VIII can lead to severe spontaneous bleeding into the joints and soft tissues.

The consequences can be devastating. The average haemophilic bleed 35 times a year and affected children may bleed several times a week. Bleeding into the joints - most often the knee or elbow - causes inflammation and destroys the cartilage at the end of the bone.

The development of factor VIII concentrates changed all that. Now haemophiliacs can inject factor VIII into themselves to stop bleeding.

At a recent meeting of the Association of Clinical Pathologists, Dr Peter Jones, from Newcastle's Haemophilia Centre told how 15 years ago a severe bleed into a joint would have meant three weeks in hospital.

Dr Jones could only conclude that the risks of not taking factor VIII still outweigh the risk of contracting Aids. He recommended, as does the Haemophilia Society, that haemophiliacs continue to use the factor.

Even so doctors are trying to minimize the risk of Aids. Children under four now receive cryoprecipitate instead of factor VIII. This is made from the blood of fewer donors and is less likely to be contaminated.

**Age old problem**

By old age most people are suffering from memory loss if not showing classic dementia signs. The fact that not everyone is affected - has led to the idea that dementia need not be part of ageing. One theory is that it could be caused by a virus. A prime suspect is herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV1), which causes cold sores. It is known to infect nervous tissue and cold sore sufferers are well aware of this when sunlight, stress or simply being rundown, activates the virus in nerve cells of the skin causing a painful sore. HSV1 can even cause a serious life-threatening encephalitis.

Around 90 per cent of us come across HSV1 generally in early childhood.

### MEDICAL BRIEFING



Christmas tradition: but treat trees with care

**Pretty but dangerous**

An eye specialist has warned of an unexpected seasonal hazard - injuries from Christmas trees. Mr John Brazier, of Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, wrote in last week's *Lancet* of 15 patients treated in the hospital's casualty department between December 1983 and February 1984.

All but two patients were hurt by real trees. The most common damage was a scratch to the surface of the eye, the cornea, caused by a branch. One man was injured taking his tree from a car, seven were either putting the trees in pots or decorating them, and four were taking them down. Most victims' treatment was straightforward and their eyes healed well.

Two patients had recurrent problems - quite common after scratches from plants or finger-nails. The symptoms of recurrent erosion of the corneal epithelium - which may continue periodically over months or years - include blurred vision, pain, redness, watering and aching when looking at light. These symptoms usually occur in the morning and can be treated with creams last thing at night.

So if you are involved in a fracas with your tree this year Mr Brazier's advice is to do nothing for an hour or so. Even if your eye waters and feels sore do not wash it with anything but leave your tears to flush out any

underestimate the problem. Dr Eric Taylor of the Institute of Psychiatry believes one in 200 may suffer.

In the US there are about half a million children - five per cent taking drugs.

In less extreme cases hyperactivity may say more about what parents can tolerate: a problem for one family may be perfectly acceptable to another. Difficulties may be first recognised when a nursery teacher tells parents their child is too boisterous and disruptive for other children.

Some children may calm down if not over-stimulated. Bedrooms can be painted in subdued colours, for example. Others may benefit from rewards for concentrating on a task. It is thought some children benefit from a reduction in artificial colouring and food additives in their diet.

### Spot the cure



Skin specialists now believe all acne sufferers can be offered some improvement - if not total cure. Only around 10 per cent of teenagers get through adolescence spot-free. A further 20 per cent develop the odd spot which doesn't worry them, and 40 per cent turn to the chemist's counter.

A number of factors contribute to the condition. The main cause is an over-reaction of the skin's sebaceous glands to male hormones circulating in the bloodstream (women have small amounts of these too). This produces an oily subum and the sebaceous gland ducts become thickened and blocked. Finally bacterial infection sets in, causing inflammation.

Often the teenager with a mild case of acne will suddenly find that his or her skin gets worse when they hit 16-18. In boys acne has usually burned itself out by the early 20s although in some women it can grumble on into the 30s.

Mild cases may respond to topical preparations such as benzoyl peroxide, which can be bought at the chemist, or Retin A, for which a prescription is needed. Moderate to severe acne will need oral antibiotics, probably for around six months. Most people's complexion will be considerably improved after this and although many will relapse, most teenagers will only need one or more long course of antibiotics (or possibly a low dose on antibiotics every day).

If the antibiotics don't work there are two alternatives. Girls can be given Diane, which blocks the effects of any circulating male hormones and which also acts as a contraceptive. Boys and girls can be given Roaccutane, which acts directly on the sebaceous glands and is 90 per cent successful.

Both preparations have potential side effects. Girls taking either preparation must not be or become pregnant. This is especially important for girls on Roaccutane which can cause, malformed babies.

**Safer screens**

Fears that working with visual display units (VDUs) during pregnancy may lead to miscarriages or cause handicapped babies may be assuaged by a study in Finland of 1,475 mothers, some of malformed babies. Problems with the central nervous system, troubles with the mouth and face, physical deformities of the spine and limbs, and heart defects were included in the study.

Of the total, 108 had worked on a VDU in early pregnancy; 50 had handicapped babies, 58 had not. Results reported in the *Lancet* last week, showed that a comparison of mothers exposed to VDUs for at least four hours a day with those not exposed at all did not confirm previous claims that radiation from a VDU causes birth defects.

**Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser**

### A. M. DANIELS

on a Stalmit:

"... he wore only nylon shirts, not because they were comfortable, nor because they were aesthetically pleasing, but because they represented for George a triumph of Man over nature."

Nature, for George, was an adversary to be overcome and if possible crushed. He had an ideological objection to flowers. Show George a beautiful landscape (as we did from time to time) and he would dream of power stations to fill it."

### CHARLES MOORE

on road accidents:

"Mrs Chalkley, who has neither the skills nor, we can be sure, the inclinations of a Goebbels, does not seem to mind trying to give people nightmares in the interests of her Department's work."

### RAYMOND KEENE

on chess:

"Are we really the second chess nation in the world now?" John Spielman asked me, unbelievably, after the medal ceremony in Greece. Such a question cannot be answered in terms of results alone. Indeed, England's second place in the Olympics was unequivocal, while in major tournaments English players acquired the habit of coming first, ahead of Americans and East Europeans."

### IN THIS WEEK'S SPECTATOR

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## HEIR APPARENT

The Soviet heir apparent Mikhail Gorbachev will attract great attention when he arrives in London this weekend. Despite the deployment of American missiles in Western Europe, the Russians are still prepared to talk. Mr Gorbachev is coming to Britain as one of the Politburo's top men, while their recent delegation to Japan was headed by the less important member, Mr Kunaev. Inevitably, some people might see his visit as an opportunity for Britain to play a vital role in helping to reduce international tensions, or at the very least, as a means to reduce unemployment by expanding British trade with the USSR. Such expectations should not be formed, since they will lead to disappointments.

At 53 Mr Gorbachev is indeed younger than the other leaders, but his reputation in some quarters as a reformer and advocate of détente is based on very flimsy evidence. The Kremlin is not usually kind to younger men who seem eager to take the place of the incumbent head of the party. In 1975 Alexander Shelepin, regarded as challenging the Brezhnev leadership, was removed from the Politburo shortly after his visit to Britain. The two events were not necessarily connected, but any effort spent cultivating him clearly did not pay dividends. And even if

Mr Gorbachev should eventually succeed President Chernenko, his foreign policy - that of the entire Soviet system - will be inspired by the same hostile ideology and determination to expand Soviet influence which prevails at present and which has his loyal support since he began his career over thirty years ago.

His reputation as favouring a softer line towards the West may prove no more genuine than his present guise as a "parliamentarian". True, in April he became chairman of the foreign affairs commission, a department of the Supreme Soviet, which claims to be democratically elected and the highest legislative body of the USSR. It is neither, and Mr Gorbachev owes his position not to the rigged one-candidate electoral system, but to his competence as a party bureaucrat and his ability to cultivate the right superior at the right time.

Because of the closed nature of Soviet society, there is an understandable tendency for the Western media to exaggerate the importance of high level visits. In 1956 the Bulganin and Khrushchev delegation was hailed as an opportunity to deal directly with the Soviet rulers in the hope of expanding British exports. Mr Bulganin, the prime minister, did indeed offer to buy

goods worth some £1,000 million, but made it clear that the offer was dependent on Britain persuading the Americans to relax the Nato strategic embargo. The leader of the Labour Party then criticized the American position and emphasized the importance to British industry of Soviet trade. Two years later Mr Khrushchev dispensed with Mr Bulganin's services, but Soviet efforts to promote disagreements among the Nato allies continue unabated.

However much Mr Gorbachev's mind is broadened by travel, he will not return to Moscow intending to change the negative image of Britain presented to Soviet citizens by members of the party and the official organs of propaganda. Such a change could risk the possibility that too many Soviet citizens would then ask permission to travel abroad themselves. It is certainly no bad thing for Soviet leaders to gain some first-hand experience of life beyond Kremlin walls. But no miracles should be expected. Real progress in East-West relations depends more on long and hard negotiations, of which the Schulz-Gromyko meeting will only be the start. A guest appearance by a rising star of the Soviet apparatus will not alter the underlying nature of the system which produced him.

## OVER PROTECTIVE

Britain's clothing and textile industries have long claimed protection from the competing products of low-wage economies. So, too, have the textile industries of continental Europe, the United States, Australia - and the rest of the developed world. Decades of protectionist pressure form the background to the present Multi-Fibre Arrangement, under which international trade in these products is closely governed by quotas. This MFA, the third in a series, expires in 1986. With unusual tactical skill, the Department of Trade and Industry prepared for the new round of international negotiations with a special economic analysis of the MFA's effect on Britain, published yesterday.

Since Britain (or indeed the European Community, which negotiates as a unit) is unlikely to see the tide of unemployment recede next year, no Government is likely to relish a policy appearing to lead to a further spate of factory closures. Yet Professor Silberston's report is an unusually clear warning of the dangers of listening too hard to the vociferous minority of losers in the struggle to promote economic change.

Professor Silberston calculates, on some pretty cautious assumptions, that the existing system of import quotas raises the price of textiles and clothing in Britain by 5 per cent. In 1982, he argues, this system deprived British consumers of some £500 million. Were the MFA arrangements to be wound down, his

"simulations" suggest an extra loss of between 10,000 and 50,000 British jobs in these industries. Taking the larger figure, this means each protected job cost British consumers about £10,000 in 1982 - roughly twice as much as the average employee in those industries was actually earning.

This result should not come as a surprise, since part of the subsidy extracted from the consumer by artificially-high prices goes to overseas producers, but it is an admirably clear, and timely demonstration of the high cost of protectionism; and its implications are plain.

If the MFA were to be wound down, Professor Silberston's "simulations" suggest at least as much employment, and probably more, would be stimulated in the rest of the economy as would be lost in textiles and clothing. It would, naturally, be better for Britain if all countries were to act together, not least those - rich and poor - which restrict imports of British clothes and textiles. It would be better still if a liberal attitude to the MFA could be used as an international lever to open up export for other British goods.

In Britain, Professor Silberston's calculations of job losses appear moderate partly because they suggest a further 150,000 jobs will disappear anyway in clothing and textiles by the early 1990s, as these two industries become more capital intensive. The two show different trends, implying tactical differences in

treatment. Technological innovation in textiles is dramatic enough to permit productivity gains sufficient to outweigh the disadvantage of higher wages in developed countries, which means British manufacturers ought to be able to compete internationally (and greater success in other European countries shows the way to go). But the clothing trade is still highly labour-intensive, which suggests the wind of change should be tempered; though its competitive position could be improved by freer access to cheap imported materials.

On the other hand, clothing manufacture is now heavily concentrated in the relatively fortunate south east of England, where many of the new jobs could be expected to appear. The textile industry has centres in some of Britain's higher unemployment areas.

Politically-sensitive answers to these problems could allow for some of the purchasing power regained by consumers to be diverted towards easing adjustment pains, or creating general employment and investment incentives, provided these could be shown to enhance the final result. They must not attempt to ignore Professor Silberston's strategic conclusion. He shows specifically how protectionism can fail to create jobs; and how the subsidies involved are no less costly because they are taken covertly out of the consumer's pockets rather than through open taxation.

## A LORRYLOAD OF TROUBLE

On the question of lorry nuisance, the Secretary of State for Transport has had within a matter of only a few hours to put a foot down firmly in Brussels, and to put the other foot down equally firmly in Westminster. In Brussels he was seeking to defend the interest of the public who detest the noisy things (though not the merchandise and employment that they bring), and in London he was standing up for the hauliers against the environmentalists: such is the stuff of politics. There is consistency to be found behind this apparently paradoxical cross-Channel straddling stance, but the coincidence illustrates the conflicting pressures that assail policy-makers in this area.

In Brussels, Mr Ridley was reaffirming what some of his colleagues has suspected was a faltering ardour to stand by the promise the Government made two years ago, under threat of an earlier backbench Tory revolt, not to give in to EEC pressure to raise the maximum weight-limit for lorries on British roads to 40 tonnes instead of 38. The promise was made, and should be honoured, although there was no great logic to it. Overall weight is a less important factor in causing damage to buildings and bridges than axle-weight, which may be greater for smaller lorries with fewer axles than for those of the maximum weight. Britain's position means that standard containers will still have to travel across Europe to Britain wastefully part-empty, with no great environmental benefit.

The EEC package also involves a less noted retreat over restrictions on noise. The proposed regulations would mean that new lorries should by 1990 be only about half as noisy (when new) as they were in 1980, meeting a standard of 84 decibels. But the Aamtag report recommended, and regarded as practical, a limit of only 80 decibels. Improvement in these areas depends on the regulations, for improvement always involve competitive sacrifice. A whispering British prototype of an 84-decibel lorry was developed as long ago as 1978 (it was seven per cent dearer to build but only one per cent dearer to run); but it has never been put into production. Mr Ridley's resistance to the other EEC ministers over maximum size is something of a token victory in a complex package whose other provisions are also important.

Meanwhile in London, the GLC declared its intention of surking a far more drastic blow against the juggernaut, by banning all lorries over 16 tonnes from the greater part of the GLC area at night and at weekends. It is a proposal which has more to do with the GLC's publicity battle against abolition than with practical local administration. It makes a facile appeal for the sympathy of all those who have ever chafed at the nuisance of lorries in crowded streets designed for vehicles a tenth their size. Forcing more lorries onto those streets in the congested daylight hours might in practice enlist very little sympathy in

deed (submissions sent to the GLC about the plan were numerous and mainly hostile). The effects of the ban were so difficult to assess that even members of the committee which studied the problem for the GLC in 1983 made sharply divergent predictions. Since then the introduction of many exceptions to protect jobs and trade have made the effects still more unpredictable. The opening of the M25 in two years should in any case remove much of the very category of lorries in transit that the plan seeks to exclude.

The plan is an example of the irresponsibility which has afflicted the GLC since it has been under sentence of death and has ceased to have to look towards the next polling-day or consider the consequences of its actions beyond the date assigned for abolition. There is a tragedy about this, for this is exactly the kind of function that a properly founded London-wide authority should be exercising, in seeking practicable strategic measures for the control of the burden of traffic on the metropolis. Mr Ridley, rightly acting to prevent the implementation of the plan as it stands, was also right to set up a fresh inquiry rather than dismiss the idea out of hand. If it were not for the efforts of his colleague, Mr Patrick Jenkin, the natural course would be for the findings of such an inquiry to contribute to the debating and developing of policy within a framework of accountability to a London-wide electorate.

## Case for inquiry at polytechnic

From Lady Cox and others

Sir, The current troubles at the Polytechnic of North London (PNL) are a culmination of years of disorder and disruption, during which the Court of Governors has often failed to give the director support in his attempts to uphold discipline and standards.

The resignation of the director is most serious, involving as it does pressures from the Court of Governors and ILEA on the director to get in ways which he was advised could bring him into contempt of the High Court.

It is a matter of grave concern that a clear majority of the Court of Governors voted against an attempt by the director to ensure that teachers who incite people to contempt of court should be regarded as committing a serious disciplinary offence, and that any student breaking High Court orders which bring the polytechnic into possible contempt of court should be deemed guilty by the polytechnic of a serious offence.

The PNL's proposal to set up an "independent inquiry" is not acceptable in view of the allegation that it has itself repeatedly put pressures on the director to take actions which he has been legally advised could be in contempt of court and contrary to the principles of natural justice.

The PNL costs the public nearly £20 million a year. While there are some good departments, especially in the natural sciences, other departments, notably sociology and social work, have recently received severe adverse criticism from Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Surely the time is overdue for the Government to set up a truly independent inquiry into the future of the college, its governance and the role therein of the ILEA.

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE COX,  
NOEL ANNAN,  
BELOFF,  
HARRIS OF GREENWICH,  
House of Lords,  
December 12.

## Conditional aid

From Mr D. H. O'Brien

Sir, Your editorial (November 27) rightly stressed that aid is "a wholly political matter, at both ends of the transaction". MPs without a means of measuring performance will, in debate, revert to their own political identities, be pulled by the emotions of their constituents for the cause of public concern at the time, and imbue recipient governments with their own assumptions as to what is good for them.

Would it not contribute to objective parliamentary debate on a strategy for aid if businessmen were to inform their own members of Parliament of the non-financial benefits which their customers in Third World "target" countries for aid derive from purchasing their services? We usually only approach our MP for help to obtain a contract or secure payment.

Those of us who stray beyond the capital cities in the course of our businesses are aware of needs at grassroots level. We may also be aware of political and other factors which prevent aid reaching the intended beneficiaries. Sometimes we are encouraged by projects where aid, from any source, is being well invested.

Examples from first-hand knowledge will provide our MPs with at least a rudimentary yardstick to measure performance. This may even lead better-informed members and ministers to break down some Government departmental barriers which separate aid from trade, both in this country and overseas.

Yours faithfully,  
D. H. O'BRIEN,  
Job Creation Limited,  
17/18 Old Bond Street, W1,  
November 30.

## Parental responsibility

From Dr Margaret White, JP

Sir, Your heading to the letter from eight agony aunts, "Compassion for the pregnant young" (December 10) is not well chosen. The gist of the letter is a plea by these ladies for doctors to make life easy for males of all ages who choose to have illegal sexual intercourse with children, and to use to "take contraceptive precautions themselves".

## Scientific talent as national resource

From the Secretary of the Medical Research Council

Sir, The Annual Review of Government-funded R & D, 1984, published yesterday by the Cabinet Office, sets out all research and development (R & D) programmes funded by central government. It gives the objectives of the programmes, the actual expenditure in recent years and the planned expenditure up to 1986-87.

It is an important document, not only for its breadth of detail, but because one of its aims is to facilitate judgements on the allocation of resources within the total UK expenditure on R & D.

The evidence in the report supports the view that judgements of priorities cannot be made by Government departments in isolation and that some mechanism is necessary for deciding national priorities where departmental interests either overlap or are in competition, or where the resources of individual departments are insufficient to meet national needs.

In the wider context of public spending, the need for such a mechanism was emphasized by Mr Peter Hornum (December 4) and by Lord Barnett (December 8), and the need was highlighted last week in the events which led to the removal of £3 million from the extra money allocated by the Department of Education and Science for scientific and medical research.

The research councils are responsible for the health of scientific

## VAT on publications

From the Editor of The Illustrated London News

Sir, You report (December 7) that more than 150 MPs have signed a Commons motion warning the Chancellor of the Exchequer against any attempt to impose value-added tax on books, and that is welcome news. But the threat from the Government is in fact far greater, covering the whole field of communication and information, for they contemplate putting VAT on newspapers and periodicals as well.

Obviously I have a direct interest since I edit a publication that would be seriously affected by such a tax, which we would have to pass on to our readers (just as, I suppose, would you); but we might none the less be better placed than many other magazines, of which there are some 6,000 currently being published in the United Kingdom.

Most of these are specialist publications, providing vital information and communication for people involved or interested in a particular business, trade or industry, and in education, the arts and politics. Many of them operate on the narrowest of profitability margins.

## Teachers' assessment

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, Lucy Hodges's analysis (feature, December 7) of the current state of teachers' pay negotiations contained many value judgements with which we would disagree.

Although the National Union of Teachers is quite prepared to take action in support of the 1985 pay claim, that action is certainly not inevitable as Lucy Hodges suggests. Nor is the prospect of a "more equitable career structure" lost for ever.

If the local authority employers respond positively to the teachers' pay claim, a claim which itself would bring a new pay structure for the 1980s and 1990s, there need be no trouble or disruption in schools.

In highlighting why teachers are deeply suspicious of any proposals coming from the employers and the Government, one important element was omitted. How does one judge the competence of a teacher who has inadequate resources to do the job? Is it fair or reasonable to

## Auction inquiries

From Mr Peter Campion

Sir, I read with interest the article (December 3) on lot 432, the Queen Anne bookcase and the inquiries into its auction.

I am not surprised that the BADA (British Antique Dealers' Association) inquiry was a "gentlemanly affair". Vigorous lifting of stones can reveal all manner of things.

I am a restorer, not a dealer, and occasionally go to local sales to keep abreast of prices and buy unwanted pieces for the timber. The dealers are very apparent and it does not take much imagination to decide which ones might be operating in a ring.

A good example is when one or two out of a group are the only ones bidding, the rest remaining silent. At first glance nothing appears unusual; but when this and other incidents happen over a period of time a certain situation is obviously taking place.

I have seen a crowd of dealers

## Embryo research in good cause

From Dr Robert Newell

Sir, Modern sensitive pregnancy tests have shown that only 30 per cent of fertilised eggs, developing into human embryos, ever end up as live human beings. The remaining 70 per cent are lost naturally at some stage during pregnancy.

Perhaps those whose morality is based on religious belief can explain why their God allows such a high proportion of "human beings" to die before they are even born.

The Bishop of Norwich (December 5) uses the emotive phrase "defenceless human embryos" to describe these masses of undifferentiated cells and your other correspondents seem to be convinced that there is something intrinsically sacred about a blob of cells containing human genes. Yet most of these blobs of cells are lost naturally and our society allows vast numbers of women to rid themselves legally of these inconvenient defenceless human embryos by virtual abortion on demand.

Why then insist on denying other women the right to donate their embryos in the alleviation of human suffering? And why do sanctimonious moralists always take it for granted that researchers in human reproduction are in league with the Devil?

They are not; they are kind and compassionate men and women motivated only by the desire to help people to have families of healthy children.

Since the beginning of time we have always celebrated people's birthdays - not their conception days. This is because common sense has always told us that a new human life starts at the moment of birth.

Yours truly,  
ROBERT NEWELL,  
111 Harley Street, W1,  
December 6.

## Justice for juveniles

From Mr Tony Hall

Sir, Mr J. Rae Price (December 6) is alone in expressing concern about proposals to introduce an independent prosecution service for juveniles.

Child-care law in Britain is in a mess precisely because it has been constantly subjected throughout the past 30 years to this kind of piecemeal change; for the same reason the legal system through which it operates is no less inadequate in dealing with the complex issues which face children and families. Both of these facts were acknowledged by the report of the House of Commons select committee on children in care, and the Government has since proposed action.

Child-care legislation is now the subject of an interdepartmental review and a second group is considering the structure and merits of a family court system (an approach which was, incidentally, widely supported by those giving evidence to the select committee).

It is this, the appropriate time, therefore, for the Government to propose a major change in the present system of juvenile justice? Whatever the merits of an independent prosecution service, surely the Government must now await the outcome of work already in progress before tinkering further with a legislative framework and a legal system so badly in need of major and fundamental review.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY HALL, Director and Secretary,  
British Agencies for Adoption & Fostering,  
11 Southwark Street, SE1,  
December 6.

## The fourth frontier

From Lord Chinn

Sir, You say (December 10) that El Salvador has elected a civilian President and only in Nicaragua has the old military dictatorship been succeeded by a new style repression.

Since in every major respect, the election in El Salvador was inferior to that in Nicaragua - the effect of the war on the conduct of the campaign, violence between supporters of the contending parties, multiple choice across the political spectrum, respect for human rights, freedom of speech and association and the conduct of the polling process itself - how can it be seriously argued that, if President Duarte of El Salvador is validly elected, President Ortega of Nicaragua is not?

Yours faithfully,  
CHITNIS,  
House of Lords,  
December 11.

## Just so

From Mrs Elspeth Huxley

Sir, Could we have a moratorium on the use of the phrase "they behaved like animals" to describe any especially nasty form of human brutality? Carnivores certainly kill when they need their dinners but do so as quickly as they can. Herbivores just eat vegetation and do not interfere with others.

We do hear of dolphins torturing other dolphins, gorillas cutting or biting, bis off other gorillas, elephants inflicting prolonged periods of terror on other elephants, or indeed on any other animal?

Rather should dolphins left to die in nets, gorillas killed in order that their dried heads should be sold to tourists, elephants dying in agony from poisons for the sake of their tusks, exclaim, in condemnation of acts of savagery (should these ever occur) committed by members of their own species. "They behaved like humans".

Yours faithfully,  
ELSPETH HUXLEY,  
Green End,  
Oaksey,  
Malmesbury,  
Wiltshire,  
December 11.







# The metropolitan counties

MARCH 31 1986

Ten years ago the metropolitan counties were seen as a means to the ends of increasing efficiency, and democracy, in local government. As control of those conurbations is due - on March 31, 1986 - to pass to new authorities, this Special Report examines the new ends in view, and asks what the new aims are. It has been compiled by David Walker and Hugh Clayton, who present and examine the arguments for and against abolition; and includes advertisements from those most involved with abolition.

"Unless local government is organized to meet the needs of the future, and in particular is organized in units large enough to match the technical and administrative requirements of the services which it administers, its powers must diminish, and with it the power of local democracy."

This is evidently not the voice of Mrs Thatcher, although the statement goes on to specify a need for radical change. "And only if such change occurs, and local government is organized in strong units with power to take major decisions, will present trends toward centralization be reversed, and local democracy secure its place as a major part of our democratic system."

These sentences come from a long-forgotten white paper, a historic milestone on the never-ending road to local government reform. Produced by the Wilson government in 1970, *Reform of Local Government in England* (Cmd 4276) embodied the results of Lord Redcliffe-Maud's exhaustive surveys. Big, in those days, was

beautiful. Size, it was thought, made for efficiency. Conurbation-wide authorities, metro counties were prescribed.

Fifteen years on, those orthodoxies are challenged. Mrs Thatcher's government says size makes for inefficiency, that conurbation-wide councils are grandiose and futile. The measure to abolish the metropolitan counties is presented as a cleansing, simplifying statute. Kenneth Baker, the Local Government Minister, appears a good Bourbon: he wants to turn the clock back to the era before ministers and councillors were infatuated with size.

And yet, the abolition measure itself contains new orthodoxies. It reeks of the belief that the civil servant in Whitehall knows best. Meanwhile, the Home Office, believers still in the old orthodoxy about big units of administration, has insisted that the police and fire services continue to be organized on the large scale. Under the abolition plan the names and the composition of police and fire authorities will change but the boundaries and structure will continue. Ditto the Department of Transport and the passenger transport authorities.

If the Government has its way, the history of six metropolitan county councils will appear a botched experiment that lasted for only a decade.

Yet only the most sanguine supporter of the abolition plans could have any faith that the arrangements now being considered by Parliament will last. The Local Government (1984) Bill itself provides in one section after another for future tinkering in case the post-abolition arrangements do not work out. The local government scheme in the metropolitan counties after 1986 will be unstable.

It will be unstable because the issues pondered at such length in the 1960s by Lord Redcliffe-Maud and the other Royal Commissioners have not gone away. You cannot, argues John Gunnell, the Labour leader of West Yorkshire, fly in the face of socio-economic realities which bind the metropolitan counties together.

"Here in West Yorkshire," he says, "the cities of Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield share a common heritage derived from the growth of the wool-textile industry. Wakefield and Leeds, too, owe much of their early growth to wool textiles. To

deny the underlying economic interdependence that makes a unity of each metropolitan county is to deny a reality that is confirmed each day in inter-firm relations and journey-to-work movements within the metropolitan areas."

Mr Gunnell here articulates perhaps the deepest strain in thinking about how local government should be organized in the urban areas of Britain - that there are "natural" geographical boundaries which local government reform, if it is to work, must observe.

Since before the end of the nineteenth century, observers of

the boroughs and the city councils bemoaned the population. One of the triumphs of the Chamberlain era in governing Birmingham was the re-drawing of the city's boundaries to take in outlying areas connected with the centre by economics and social relationships but excluded from municipal arrangements.

But, 60 years later, the further dispersal of population made the problem acute, even for Birmingham. The Local Government Commission for England reviewing the West Midlands area in 1961 found the county boroughs, representing the main urban

centres, are losing population to the peripheral areas. As a result, the county boroughs, as well as other authorities in the heart of the conurbation, are beginning to lose variety in the social and economic government and reduces the supply of voluntary leadership of all kinds."

In the period up to the 1960s local government had been changing in response to such criticism. Territory and people had been transferred from the jurisdiction of the shire counties to that of the city authorities - called county boroughs. Politics

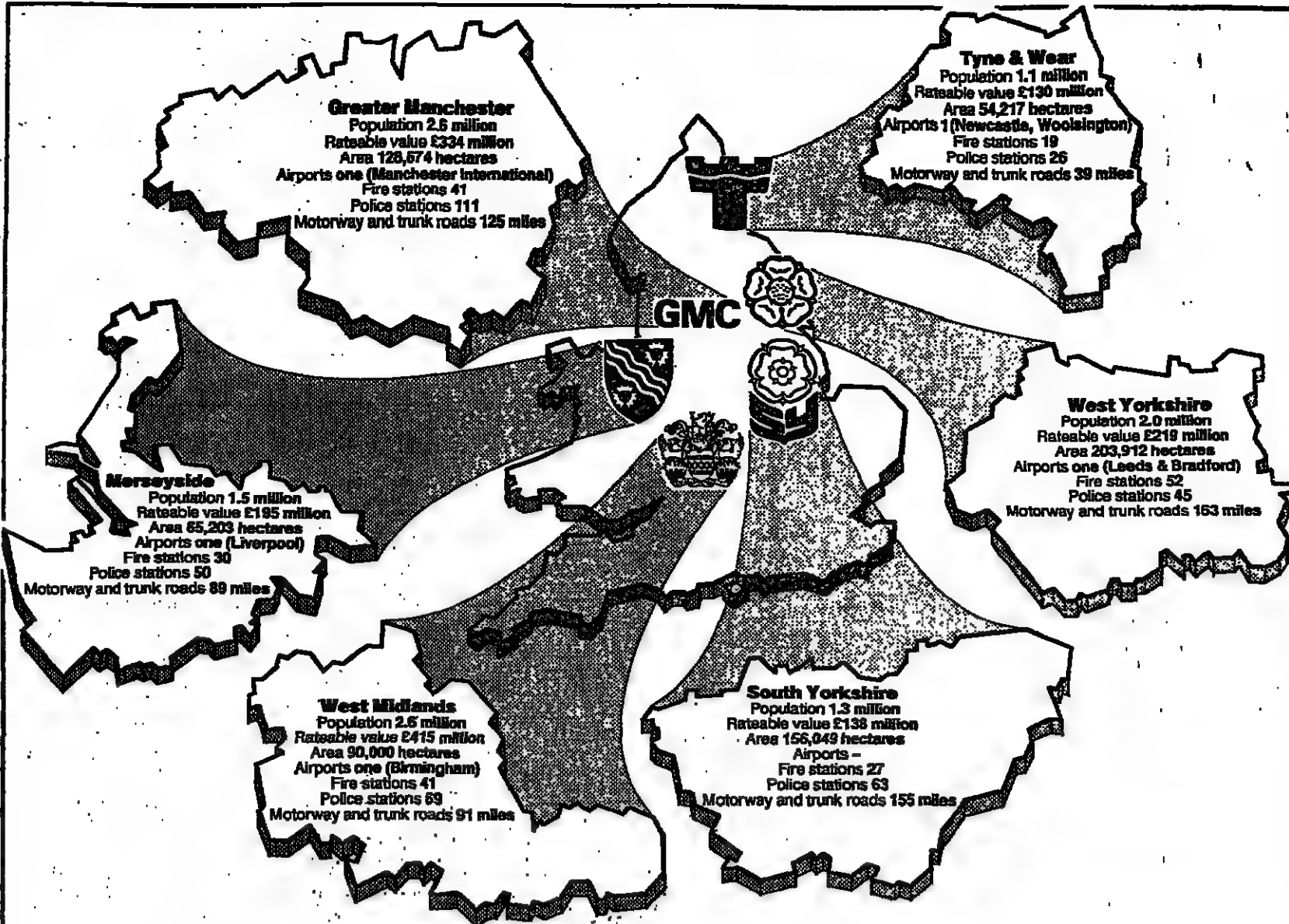
obtruded. The movement of people to suburbs in the shire counties around the urban areas benefited the Conservatives; the containment of the county boroughs was often in the Conservative interest.

By 1960 there was a widespread if incoherent feeling in favour of local government reform for the conurbations. Professor William Robson of the London School of Economics spoke for many in saying "nowhere do the local authorities correspond to the social, economic and political realities of the area... If a proper system of metropolitan govern-

ment were introduced, the Alderly Edge would become part of the Greater Manchester, to which they belong." Academics like him addressed themselves to rationalist blueprints of a reformed system, many of them recommending conurbation-wide councils.

Parliament had not been entirely inert. The Macmillan government focused first on the problems of government in London, setting up, in 1957, a royal commission under Sir Edwin Herbert. In 1958 it established wide-ranging commissions to look at the "special review areas": Tyneside, East Yorkshire, South East Lancashire, Merseyside and the West Midlands. With hindsight, we might now wonder if these commissions could, by making specific recommendations for boundary changes, have avoided the grandiosity and delay of the Redcliffe-Maud exercise.

Continued on next page



**FOR ABOLITION**  
Kenneth Baker, the minister for local government, front man for the abolition campaign

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With hindsight, we might now wonder if these commissions could, by making specific recommendations for boundary changes, have avoided the grandiosity and delay of the Redcliffe-Maud exercise.

The commissions' work is best exemplified by the short-lived creation of a Borough of Teeside by absorption of the county borough of Middlesbrough, a neat solution to the problem of matching council boundaries and socio-economic change along the River Tees; it would be a brave politician who argued that the present-day county of Cleveland makes more sense.

Instead, when Labour took office in 1964 the new minister for housing and local government, Richard Crossman, opted for a giant reform, an exercise by its very nature costly and unlikely to be implemented unless it won cross-party support.

As it turned out, Labour lost the 1970 election. Its White Paper died the death and only parts of the Redcliffe-Maud reform package survived to appear in the Heath government's own White Paper and 1972 local Government Act.

Redcliffe-Maud - the Royal Commission on Local Government in England which reported in 1969 - placed at the centre of



**AGAINST ABOLITION**  
John Gunnell, the leader of West Yorkshire County Council, fighting for a last-minute reprieve

ADVERTISEMENT

## Before 2,600,000 people lose their voice, won't someone listen?

Greater Manchester. Strong, industrious, enterprising, independent, and since Roman times - one of Britain's most economically important areas, a vital producer of the nation's goods and its wealth.

Today its unique blend of natural and human resources is more important than ever, maintaining an environment in which industrial, commercial and new technology skills are helping ensure Greater Manchester's prominence as a vital factor in the country's economic recovery.

Yet inexplicably, its towns and cities and their 2.6 million people face an unprecedented threat from the least expected of quarters - Central Government. Less than 10 years after asking Greater Manchester Council to establish the complex framework needed to stabilise and strengthen this key region, the same Government now plans to scrap the GMC, assuming for itself most of the strategic responsibilities and spending powers.

Secretary of State Patrick Jenkin believes Westminster and Whitehall are better placed to assess and provide for the needs of Greater Manchester. He also thinks they can provide a wide range of services more effectively, more efficiently and more cheaply.

Hardly anyone seems to share his view. Not even respected independent bodies like Coopers and Lybrand Associates, the internationally-renowned financial consultants who say: "The Government's claim for substantial savings are not supported by our analysis... We conclude there are unlikely to be any net savings as a result of the Government's proposed changes, and that there could be significant extra costs."

Before you make up your mind about GMC's value to the County, you might ask Patrick Jenkin these questions. In the process, you might discover why GMC, for one, thinks he's hopelessly wrong...

### Will the Government speak up for Greater Manchester?

The County Council is an effective economic voice for a united Greater Manchester. GMC has led the county into a new era by its own policies, skills, initiatives and determination - and without a flow of Whitehall handouts.

It has used its powerful voice well. And wisely, attracting nearly £50 million in EEC and central Government grants for the

economic and social benefit of the County. And enterprisingly, harnessing its resources with those of leading research institutes like UMIST to pioneer breakthroughs in technology - such as its current projects for converting waste products into fuel. And confidently, pioneering major capital schemes to create economic growth and social improvements.

Ironically, achievements by self-help attract scant interest from Government. Which is sad, because Westminster has little idea of the innovative policies and projects it plans to inherit or abandon. And disturbing, because Whitehall has even less idea or experience of maintaining extensive economic frameworks so carefully nurtured to success by the GMC during the last decade.

### Will the Government create new jobs and invest in local industry?

GMC's economic determination has launched schemes like Operation Jobs Boost and the vital Lifestart apprenticeship schemes, creating thousands of new jobs. The same determination is providing millions of pounds worth of venture capital - through the local authorities' pension funds - for bright successful companies to consolidate or expand. Currently, more than £13 million is being ploughed directly into new economic development, and job creation projects.

### Will the Government halt urban decay and regenerate the inner cities?

More than £20 million is being spent on major inner city regeneration schemes such as the unique public-private sector partnership venture to transform Manchester's derelict Central Station site into the North West's most important exhibition and events centre, and the exciting conversion of another redundant city centre railway station to become Europe's finest science and industry museum.

### Will the Government protect public transport and communication?

Greater Manchester has developed second-to-none communications networks, with more motorways than any other county, extensive trunk road improvement schemes, and a substantial public transport investment programme to further enhance the work and leisure mobility of two and a half million people.

Special help for the young and the old through countywide concessionary fares, a three year freeze on bus fares, sensible development of Manchester International Airport to consolidate its position as Britain's preferred third airport and the streamlining of highways plans to save millions of pounds in blight compensation (not to mention 20,000 valuable properties) are good examples of GMC's careful policymaking.

### Will the Government improve the countryside?

Ten years ago, Greater Manchester had more derelict land than any other English county. Today it boasts the largest, most successful range of country park, river valley and urban land reclamation schemes in Britain. Since 1974, GMC has turned 3,000 eyesore acres into attractive urban countryside, planting 9 million trees in the process. Its current reclamation programme covers more than 100 sites and over 6,000 acres. No surprise perhaps that GMC's far-sighted approach to green belt protection has received nationwide commendation.

### Will the Government maintain arts and recreational support?

Greater Manchester people take their work seriously. They also enjoy their leisure, which is why GMC does more than most to support cultural, arts and recreational development, in its desire to provide regional facilities that are accessible to everyone. Each year, GMC invests several million pounds in national and regional performing arts, protecting the county's heritage, improving peoples' lifestyle.

To protect Greater Manchester's ability to do today what others will struggle to achieve tomorrow, and to safeguard its crucial contribution to the nation's economy, the County must retain a strong voice. Without it, the nation as well as the County will be the poorer.

**GMC**  
Greater Manchester Council

MAKING GREATER MANCHESTER GREATER



METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

# An exciting package?

**31**  
MARCH  
1986

What seems to have happened in the early part of 1981 is that in the innermost recesses of Whitehall an implicit bargain was struck. To the cabinet committee set up to investigate abolition of the rates, Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State or the Environment, presented an alternative. Whitehall had, it knew, devoted many man-hours to finding an alternative to rates; the subject had been mullied over in detail by the Layfield Committee in the 1970s and since. There was no workable alternative that did not have insuperable political costs. Instead, Mr Heseltine suggested, why not a policy that looked exciting, made it appear that the Government was simplifying and streamlining the structure of local government, and also diverted attention from rates. That policy was to abolish the Greater London Council and the metropolitan counties.

The metropolitan counties were, of course, something of an afterthought. Abolition of the GLC had been discussed within and without the Conservative Party for some time. Sir Horace Cutler had, Mr Heseltine knew, worked as leader of the GLC to dismantle parts of it; the rest would come easy. But dismantling the GLC alone looked odd. With the metropolitan counties it became a political package.

At this stage, however, abolition was merely a policy option, something with which the Department of the Environment could arm itself when bailed by the Prime Minister for failing to find a solution to the rates conundrum. So it remained until a general election became imminent in early 1983. The Prime Minister, we know from confidential sources, agitated until the last minute for a rates platform in the manifesto. The one she got, the rates-limitation plan now embodied in the 1984 Rates Act, was a late starter. Abolition of the metropolitan counties was thrown into the manifesto to fill a gap.

At the last minute Tom King, Secretary of State for the Environment from January until June 1983, began to work on the practical implications of abolition.

His place was taken by Mr Patrick Jenkin, a dutiful if unimaginative servant of the Prime Minister and the manifesto said: "The metropolitan councils have been shown to be a wasteful and unnecessary tier of government. We shall abolish them and return most of their functions to the boroughs and districts."

In October last year appeared *Streamlining the Cities*, the White Paper exposing for the first time the detail of the arrangements for replacing the counties.

It is worth teasing out the principles which the Government said it based its plan upon.

According to the White Paper they were:

- The temper of the 1980s, unlike the 1970s, was anti-size, dismayed by big organizations (such as the National Health Service and the Civil Service). In the 1980s small is beautiful.
- The purposes of the 1972 Local Government Act had been realized in the shire counties but not in the conurbations. The metro counties had failed to find a role. They had searched for a role but in so doing had trespassed on the responsibilities of the lower-tier districts.
- They spent more than they should.
- Abolition would save money without cutting services.
- Abolition would "provide a system which is simpler for the public to understand, in that responsibility for virtually all local services will rest with a single authority."

*Streamlining the Cities* was, the government averred, open for consultation, which was absorbed into a second version of the White Paper published last July. In a preamble Mr Jenkin bemoaned "misleading advertising" by the threatened county councils arguing that "abolition will mean the decentralization of powers to the local level and the end to an expensive and unnecessary two-tier system of local government."

By now it had become obvious that local government reform was the centrepiece of the social policy legislation of Mrs Thatcher's second term in office.

Late last month the Local Government Bill was published containing the substance of the abolition plan. The Government intends it to become law by next summer.

And is that an end to the metropolitan counties? The demographic pressures are now

very different from those which in the 1950s and 1960s pushed politicians towards big conurbation-wide authorities, the fashion of the 1980s dislikes "corporatism" of the kind spoused in the 1972 Local Government Act. Yet the motive forces of local government reform, political, social, and economic, have not been stilled by the government's frenzy of activity on the local front; rather, they have been quickened.

In the recent J. R. James Memorial Lecture (James was formerly chief planner at the Environment Department) the geographer Peter Hall compellingly listed the factors making for change in the urban landscape. They carried, he argued, an eerie echo of the economic and social changes of another great decade of local government reforms, the 1880s,

which saw the creation of the London County Council and the county boroughs.

Look around, Professor Hall said, at the signs of urban decay. Perhaps the solution lay in dispersal, even acceleration of the population and migration trends seen in urban Britain in the post war period that led to the New Towns and the overspill towns and the satellite estates.

Maybe. But Professor Hall's and most other versions of urban change will sooner or later necessitate a revision of local government boundaries, perhaps even a re-creation of a conurbation-wide political authority whether it is to build houses or roads to permit the movement of people. If that day comes, the abolition of the metropolitan counties a decade after their creation will look like an expensive error.

DW

A disinterested observer looking at the map of local government in 1979 when Margaret Thatcher came to power might have thought that the era of reform had indeed ended, that the map was settled for a generation.

With the exceptions of the Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles and of Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom was entirely covered by a two-tier system of local government. Yes, the creation of the metropolitan counties had been expensive. "Inheriting staff and equipment from as many as 33 authorities in 1974 was a nightmare in West Yorkshire," recalls John Gunnell, the county's labour leader.

Yes, there was sniping at the counties from the metropolitan districts, some still smarting at the loss of their all-purpose status as county boroughs; others (Sandwell, Sefton, Calderdale) still struggling to find an identity beyond the new structure of counties for their malaise.

But there was no inkling of

# The reform that led to friction

the political storms to come. In 1979 indeed several of the metropolitan counties were Conservative (had been designed to go Conservative on an alternating cycle, cynical critics of the 1972 reorganization said). South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear were solid Labour, but politics in Merseyside and the West Midlands were more volatile.

On the face of it, the arrangements of 1972 - far from perfect - seemed to have answered the old yearning for conurbation-wide political authority even if under the 1972 Act the county councils' writ ran only in highly restricted areas.

Since 1974 when the new structure came into being there had been frictions. The metropolitan counties and the metro-

politan districts had quarrelled over the exact definition of their respective planning powers. Early on, several metropolitan counties, had made the districts their agents for things like road maintenance.

Alan Alexander of Reading University notes however that "within a few years, such county councils as Tyne and Wear, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands wanted to make a reality of their statutory position as sub-regional authorities, and one way to do this was to attempt to withdraw agencies and begin to provide services directly. Once again the motivation was status rather than politics."

To say there was no love lost between the metropolitan districts and counties would perhaps be underestimating the

degree of antagonism. The committee representing the metropolitan districts of the West Midlands recently said bluntly that there could easily be "a reversion to proper all-purpose district authorities on the model of the old county boroughs, with the districts working together where necessary."

However, in 1979 there was peace. The Conservative Manifesto of May 1979 never mentioned the metropolitan counties (and scarcely mentioned local government). There was no secret abolition plans in ministers' baggage. What went so quickly wrong?

The abolition issue is inseparable from the government's determination to reduce council spending in aggregate and, following from that, to apply cash limits to the spending "profligate" local authorities. It is vitally linked with the unsuccessful bid to redeem a promise made by Mrs Thatcher earlier in her political career to scrap property rates.

DW

# The long and relentless countdown

The countdown to abolition has gone like this:

- The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 for the first time compared council expenditure with centrally defined assessments; the government made unfavourable comparisons for some of the metro counties
- 1980: The Government ordered Whitehall to investigate an alternative to the rates in the finance of local government as a way of realizing the promise made in 1974 by Mrs Thatcher when she was Opposition spokesman on the Environment committing the Conservatives to abolishing rates
- May 1981: All six metro counties go Labour
- June 1981: The *Financial Times* reported "the Government decided in principle to abolish the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan counties in England"
- Autumn 1981: The Government published a green paper, *Alternatives to Domestic Rates*
- December 1981: Decision by the Law Lords called into question powers of upper-tier councils in transport management
- 1982: A Cabinet committee juxtaposed abolition of rates and abolition of metro counties as policies
- Winter 1982: The abolition plan came under attack from the Home Office which feared for its effect on the police and fire services
- Spring 1983: The Cabinet decided to go ahead with abolition.

at the expense of greater Treasury contributions to provincial theatres and museums and the Arts Council.

□ June 1984: The House of Lords secured major changes in the "paying bill" but it became law in August.

□ October 1984: At the Conservative Party conference Patrick Jenkin announced wide-ranging inquiries into local government finance (the abolition of the rates again?) and the management of Labour-controlled councils.

□ November 1984: The abolition bill is published.

□ December 1984: The Bill gets its second reading in the House of Commons despite vocal Conservative opposition.

# The reorganization... and the operation

From previous pages his critique of the existing scheme the damage done to the county boroughs in the urban areas, by the shift in population to outer areas. A second strand in the report's conclusions was the division of public services into those best handled by conurbation wide authorities (especially around Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham) and those local "personal" services. Roughly, planning, transport and water supply fell into the first category and education, social work and housing into the latter.

Mr Heath's government was not Bourbon; it amended rather than jettisoned the Redcliffe-Maud reform scheme. While Redcliffe-Maud had reluctantly accepted the need for two "tiers" of local government in the conurbations, the 1971 White Paper (Cmd 4584, *Reform of Local Government in England: Government Proposals for Reorganization*) enthusiastically embraced the principle.

The problem of the conurbations was to be dealt with by a mixture of strategic county-wide councils and local districts springing from the former county boroughs. The Conservatives innovated by advocating county councils for South Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear; they discarded Labour's preference for a new conurbation-county of South Hampshire covering Southampton and Portsmouth.

David Walker  
Social Policy Correspondent

# 'Their role does not justify the cost'

Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government, has become a key figure in the drive to abolish the metropolitan county councils. When the White Paper *Streamlining the Cities* was published last year Mr Baker was still Minister for Information Technology. But after the heavy weather made in Parliament this summer of the first stage of the countdown to abolition, the Prime Minister made Mr Baker Minister for Local Government.

It was freely made known from Downing Street that Mr Baker had been moved because the Government was worried about the propaganda gains being made by the Greater London Council and the other threatened metropolitan authorities.

Mr Baker, who was once a London MP, knew it well. He soon showed that despite many misgivings among Conservatives he was fully committed to abolishing the threatened councils on time and replacing them with broadly the structure outlined in 1983.

They included Conservative councillors such as Irvine Patnick, the Opposition leader on South Yorkshire County Council, and Michael King, leader of Trafford Borough Council in Greater Manchester. Mr King is one of many Conservative councillors in districts who are keen to take on county functions after abolition.

Mr Baker insists that the metropolitan authorities are not needed because in 10 years they have not found a role

that justifies their cost. He is convinced that their elimination will bring savings.

He says that there is wide scope for saving among the threatened councils because the extent of their combined "overspend" above what the Government thinks they should spend is far above the excess for other types of council. That blanket statement obscures the fact that among the threatened councils most of the spending above Government targets comes from the GLC and not the metropolitan county councils.

But Mr Baker adds that the threatened councils have been increasing their workforces while their responsibilities have been dwindling.

He said: Greater Manchester County Council have increased staff by 8 per cent since 1981 and West Midlands County Council by 6 per cent since 1982.

"The scope for major policy savings is clearly substantial," Mr Baker continues. "Economies are there to be made to the lasting benefit of ratepayers in the metropolitan areas."

But he always returns to the point repeated by ministers throughout the year. It is that abolition is not being proposed simply to make savings. The idea is to bring local government closer to the electors by placing more powers in the hands of district councillors.

Hugh Clayton  
Local Government Correspondent

# THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR RE-ORGANISING WEST YORKSHIRE.



On 1 April 1986, the Government plans to abolish West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council.

The results could be shattering. For a start, three-quarters of the annual budget is to be handed over to six new county-wide bodies responsible for the Police, the Fire Service, Public Transport, the Probation Service, Grants to Voluntary Organisations, and Residuary Powers. Each will have the right to raise money through the Metropolitan District Councils from local ratepayers.

In other words, seven different local government bodies will be competing for the pound in the ratepayer's pocket.

What hope, then, for reduced rate bills? Other vital services, such as Strategic

Planning, Highways, Traffic Management, Waste Disposal, Land Reclamation, Trading Standards, Countryside, Recreation and the Arts - one quarter of the County Council's annual budget - will be handed over to the District Councils. Because these services, too, have county-wide implications, the Government is setting up a cat's-cradle of "voluntary joint arrangements."

What hope is there here for reduced bureaucracy?

The Abolition Bill has highlighted the Government's true intent - a much greater say by Westminster and Whitehall in local government in the metropolitan county areas. The Bill gives the Environment Secretary sixty-seven additional powers.

And who loses when centralism takes over? The answer is obvious - those living in the metropolitan areas. Without a Royal Commission or other form of inquiry they are reduced, by a one-sentence manifesto commitment, to second-class citizens no longer enjoying the same electoral rights or the same immediate access to those who control local services as people living in shire county areas.

Does the Government really believe in local democracy?

**WEST YORKSHIRE**  
Metropolitan County Council  
COUNTY HALL WAKEFIELD WEST YORKSHIRE WF1 1QQ

Are we exactly...  
31 MARCH 1986  
Local government...  
Liverpool Airport  
Who up the drop  
MERS



## Are we all sure we know exactly who does what?

O MARCH 31 1986

How a you are if you are a local council? Assume, for example, that you have just discovered that permission has been given for a new effluent-treatment plant within an embankment of your property. Imagine, alternatively, that when the dustman swings your neighbour's bin on to his shoulders, he always manages to leave some of its contents a your hydrangeas.

You might say: I shall write to my councillor and complain to Parliament. But you would be much more likely to say: I shall write to my MP and complain to the council. Somehow, MPs manage to be identifiable personalities in a way that councillors never are.

**Local government may be confusing. A city council can at the same time be a district council - but cannot then be a town council.**

Likewise Parliament can be a much more real and tangible institution than the councils of the town hall down the road.

But if local government itself is a relatively unknown quantity, its most recent incarnation is the least known of all. How many voters know where to look on the map for the six metropolitan county councils that the Government intends to abolish?

Is it Tyne and Wear that they want to get rid of, or is it North Lakeside? When we talk in casual conversation about local government we usually speak of "the council" even though most of us are represented by more than one. As for the identity of our councillors or the names of the wards they represent, most of us probably neither know nor care. That, at least, is what local government voting figures suggest.

One reason for lack of interest is that local government never fails to be confusing. A city council is at the same time a district council. But if it is, it cannot also be a town council, which is an altogether different creature.

A county can be a shire county even if its name does not end with "shire". A densely-populated city like Bristol or

Southampton can be classed in local government terminology as a "non-metropolitan". An English county council can act as an education authority, but not as a health or water authority. A non-metropolitan district council can be a planning authority, but not an education authority.

Of course, the system is supposed to be simpler than it was, with the elimination of such awkwardly placed or shaped entities as Rutland and Middlesex. Out they went, and in came the single county of Hereford and Worcester, not to mention other newcomers like Cleveland and the six metropolitan counties.

The Government has assured its nervous supporters in the shires that those six are the only county councils that it wants to abolish. Each of the other English counties is classed as a shire county even if its name is Kent or Cornwall.

One of the Government's justifications for abolition is that there is a key difference between the two species of county councils. There are few important tasks which are discharged by the county authorities in the shires and the district councils in the metropolitan areas.

That makes the metropolitan authorities smaller in spending terms than their shire counterparts. The functions which are undertaken by the different authorities are few, but expensive. The main one is education. One of the reasons for the different allocations of tasks between the shire and metropolitan areas is based on

differences in revenue-raising powers.

Costly services like education are left in the metropolitan areas to big district authorities like Birmingham or Manchester city councils because their large populations and high incidence of commercial property gives them a large base from which to raise rates.

But the metropolitan county councils also have large rate bases, because each one spreads over several large cities. That in the view of ministers, has led them to cast about for some sort of "strategic" function simply to try to justify their continued existence.

The key to the Government's case for abolition is that the metropolitan county councils are large organizations with little to do and nothing which cannot be done more cost-effectively by someone else. The councils reply that much of their work is unsuitable for sharing among a number of smaller bodies with competing aims.

The case they all like to quote is that of Leeds-Bradford airport. They point to a recent disagreement about the future structure of the airport in which the two city authorities responsible for it were at loggerheads. That kind of dispute could be duplicated many times, the county authorities say, if their responsibilities are divided among smaller councils.

One of their difficulties in the debate about abolition has been that the Labour and Liberal parties, while opposed to the principle and mechanism of the abolition programme, have clearly divergent views about what to do if the threatened councils really are scrapped.

Each party is much more committed to rescuing the GLC than to reviving the metropolitan county councils. That is because neither party sees the metropolitan authorities fitting into its plans for administration of the largest provincial cities into the next century.

Who is responsible? (Group-County council, D-District council, Met Shire counties counties)

Service	Met	Shire
Education	D	C
Personal social services (e.g. children in care; homes for the elderly)	D	C
Libraries	D	C
Council house building	D	C
Structure plans	C	C
Public footpaths	C & D	C & D
Organizing allotments	D	D
Collecting rubbish	D	D
Bumping rubbish	C	C
Bins, debris and marriage registration	D	C
Slaughterhouses	D	C
Police	D	C
Fire brigades	C	C

HC



Michael Campbell, Labour leader of Tyne & Wear: the resultant quangos will be "sinister"

## Fantasy or fact: the rows over finance

Labour opponents of abolition have had plenty to work on in the past year. First was the Government's failure to back with detailed figures its claim that abolition would bring savings. Then there was the embarrassing undercurrent of dislike for the plan in the Conservative party. Finally there was the Local Government Bill, which is designed to give the Government power to scrap seven councils in 1986.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Bill proposed to give ministers more powers than those open to Parliament itself. But there are plenty of no less vociferous opponents of abolition in the threatened authorities themselves.

One of the most forthright is Bernard Clarke, Labour leader of Greater Manchester County Council, who calls the Bill "a piece of gross deception employed by a Government contemptuous of the facts."

"It swings right into the realms of fantasy in its shoddy Bill by claiming that most services will be transferred to district and borough councils," he continues. "The Government also makes the fatuous claim that abolition will save £50m across the six metropolitan areas."

"But the top financial consultants, Coopers & Lybrand, concluded that the new administration would most likely cost up to £61m a year more. Abolition is bound to cost the

ratepayers more. The proposed structure is patently more complex. Local accountability will inevitably be eroded."

Mr Clarke dismisses Government claims that abolition will streamline local administration. "Remove a source of conflict and tension. Save money and create a system simpler for the public to understand. Rubbish, all of it, and shown to be downright dishonest by the evidence from Coopers and PA Management that we have been forced to commission."

He predicts that if abolition goes ahead the "residual" quangos planned by the Government for each metropolitan county will cause extra confusion for ratepayers.

Michael Campbell, Labour leader of Tyne & Wear county council, calls the residual quangos "a new and sinister element in local government." He predicts that they would consist of a handful of Government appointees, "no doubt benefiting from fancy salaries."

One of the main spokesmen for the metropolitan county councils is John Gunnell, a 51-year-old science teacher who was leader of the opposition on West Yorkshire County Council until Labour took control three years ago.



Bernard Clarke, Labour leader of Greater Manchester: "It's gross deception"

He has challenged ministers to submit their claims for the savings to be won from abolition to the Audit Commission. The commission is a quango appointed to monitor efficiency in local government. Mr Gunnell is a member of it.

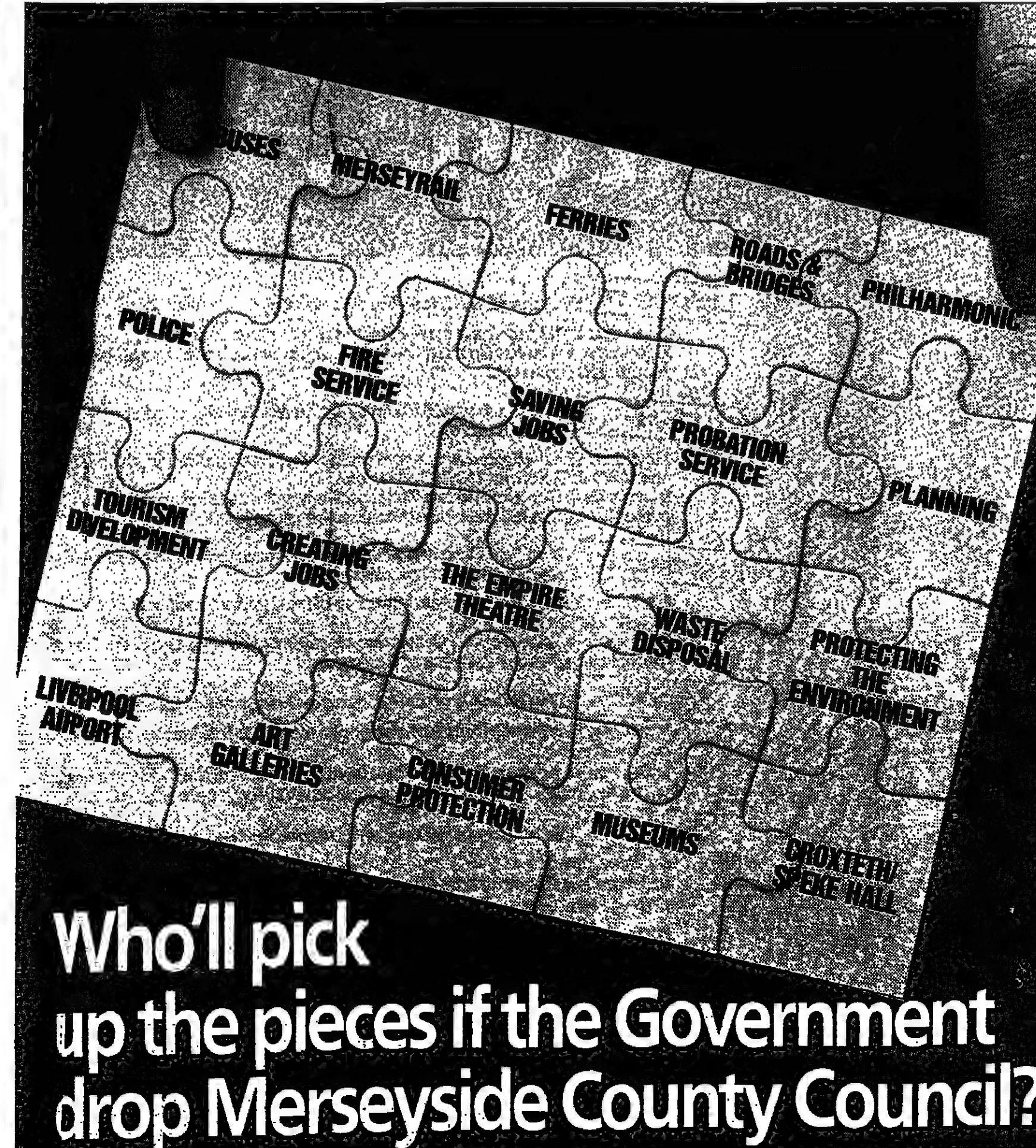
He says that the gap between the large savings claimed by ministers and the much smaller amount estimated by Coopers & Lybrand is too wide to be left without close independent analysis. But the Coopers' figures are backed by detailed investigation of the Govern-

ment's proposals and their impact on the ground while ministers have given little evidence to support their claims.

"Surely it would be a massive act of faith to accept unquestionably the idea of any saving at all," Mr Gunnell says. "The most likely course of events is that the extra cost of abolition will increase to £69m. This contrasts rather starkly against the Government's present claims of £50m savings."

HC

FOR HIRE



# Who'll pick up the pieces if the Government drop Merseyside County Council?

The Government has decided to drop Merseyside County Council - a part of local Government which is providing so many local services efficiently and cost effectively:-

■ A co-ordinated Public Transport system that is the envy of the country, with one of the finest underground railway systems outside London and a ferry service that's proving to have more than just sentimental value.

■ A more efficient, economical Fire Service, with standardisation of appliances and procedure producing a more cost-effective use of manpower and equipment.

■ The liveliest Arts Scene outside London, which even the Government recognise can be a social and economic asset, adding greatly to the quality of local life and attracting inward investment and jobs.

■ Important economic development initiatives

that have helped both create, and save, thousands of jobs in Merseyside.

■ Merseyside County Council also operate or help to support Police, Planning, Liverpool Airport, Waste Disposal, Trading Standards, Street Lighting, the Mersey Tunnels, Roads, The Probation Service - just as effectively and economically.

The P.A. Management Report has said clearly that abolition can't work.

Coopers & Lybrand have put the cost of abolition at as much as £69 million per year for the GLC and the six Metropolitan Counties.

Here on Merseyside higher costs are only part of the story. The abolition of Merseyside County Council - local enough to serve the specific needs of the area yet large and powerful enough to raise a strong voice on local issues at Central Government level - could shatter the hopes and dreams of a new Merseyside.

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY COUNCIL - JUST RIGHT FOR MERSEYSIDE

SHIRE y Council



## METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

**MARCH 31 1986**

The race to abolish the metropolitan county councils on time is well underway. When Kenneth Baker became Minister for Local Government in the autumn, he said several times that the six county authorities and the Greater London Council would definitely cease to exist on March 31 1986.

It was significant that he said it so emphatically. It was doubly significant that doing so had a noticeable effect on the climate of discussion about the fate of the councils. That effect was a measure of the Government's disarray in the summer, at the time of the defeat in the Lords of the Government's original plans for paving the way next year for abolition the year after.

Mr Baker's arrival, and the successful Conservative boycott of Ken Livingstone's council by-election in London, helped to give the impression that the initiative had been wrested from the opponents of abolition.

The publication of the Local Government Bill in November led some of those opponents to believe that they had a good chance of regaining it. The inclusion of the notorious Clause 93 helped to breathe new life into the flagging campaign against abolition.

"The Secretary of State", it says, "may at any time by order make such incidental, consequential, transitional or supplementary provision as appears to him to be necessary or expedient for the general purposes or any particular purposes of this Act... or for giving full effect to it."

It means that ministers want to be allowed to trump anything that emerges unexpectedly from the hand of any of the threatened councils. They also want to be able to do it quickly, without lingering for too long over parliamentary niceties as the stated abolition deadline set draws nearer.

The moment chosen for abolition is only 15 months away. But most of the new bodies that are supposed to take on county work after abolition are expected to start work six months before the final cut-off date. The Government has therefore allowed little more than nine months in which to secure enactment of the Bill and start the final countdown.

Mr Baker complained in November that the GLC had not told the Government what he had booked the Royal Festival Hall in London for the first months after abolition. Ministers know that there is still much for them to learn about the working of the metropolitan county councils and the district authorities that are supposed to

# The abolition juggernaut: running over its allies?

## BREAKING DOWN THE COST OF BREAKING UP

Though most of them probably do not know it, ratepayers in the metropolitan counties have spent thousands of pounds this year on surveys and estimates of what abolition will or will not save. Each side in the argument has tried to bolster its case by hiring consultants or using officers to examine the effects of abolition followed by a transfer of powers to the district councils. A clear pattern has emerged throughout the confusing mass of reports. Those commissioned by the metropolitan county councils themselves have predicted that the system proposed by the Government to follow abolition will produce only small savings, if any, and will complicate local administration instead of making it simpler. Those commissioned wholly or partly by Conservative-led districts have suggested that abolition would produce useful savings. Each forecast has been greeted with derision by opponents and warm approval by supporters. The ratepayers have paid their money. Now they can take their choice.

Some of the most effective material against abolition has been produced for the metropolitan county councils by Coopers & Lybrand Associates at a cost of more than £350,000. Their five reports have done much to shake the confidence of government assurances that abolition will bring savings.

There is still a wide gap. Ministers believe that abolition of the metropolitan county councils will save £50m a year at a cost of more than 3,000 jobs, although the basis for that estimate has not been given. Coopers & Lybrand say that the most ministers can realistically expect is a saving of £2m a year and the loss of 500 jobs. That depends on a high level of cooperation among district councils after abolition, otherwise there may be a heavy cost instead.

Coopers & Lybrand have revised their figures now that the Government has published the Local Government Bill and they believe that extra costs must be built in now that ministers are prepared to allow district councils to withdraw from joint boards.

Birmingham City Council has already said that it wants its own police force outside the proposed West Midlands county joint board for policing. Wirral District Council on Merseyside wants its own fire brigade.

These are the Coopers & Lybrand estimates of the impact of abolition:

	Assuming good cooperation among districts	Assuming poor cooperation among districts
Old figures	Saving £4m-£5.5m a year	Extra cost of £36m-£51m a year
New figures	Saving £2m a year to extra cost of £14m	Extra cost of £38m to £53m

take over many of their tasks.

Though much will go straight to the district councils, each metropolitan county will also have joint boards of district councillors to run police forces, fire brigades and bus services with other local public-transport operations. Each county will also have a "residual body" or special quango to handle the property of the abolished councils and their staff pension funds. Each of the quangos will be told to prepare to abolish itself after a few years.

What it all means is that the present dual pattern of directly-elected metropolitan and district councils will be replaced by a more complicated system. Ministers claim that it will be a more locally-accountable system because councillors from each district will have more

influence over local affairs.

The district councils will stay as they are, but will do more work with more staff. Councillors in each district will choose a few of their number to serve on each joint board. The "residual body" will work in each county alongside the district councils and joint boards. The counties will exist only as names on the map of England and as components of postal addresses.

Opponents of abolition claim that the new system will be less democratic because work now done by directly-elected councillors will be done by members of joint boards who will be working at one remove from the voters. They see it as part of the steady removal of local influence from local administration. The Government has already cleared local councillors out of

water authorities. Now it is trying to clear them out of the county councils as well.

The most difficult part of the operation for the Government will be making sure that all the arrangements are ready on time. The Liberal Party has already told ministers that they cannot possibly have everything in place by the end of March 1986.

The threatened councils and the Labour-led district authorities which are meant to take powers from them are still refusing to give ministers the information they need to make precise handover arrangements. The Government knows what it wants to do with the GLC and the metropolitan county councils and when and why it wants to do it.

But there is plenty of evidence that ministers do not know how they are going to do

December 83  
Officers of most district councils in West Midlands

Abolition of West Midlands County Council and handover to the districts could cost between 750 and 900 jobs and thus save between £7m and £8.5m a year. Costings were done without county council help and on general assumptions about how much county work the districts would accept after abolition.

April 84  
Officers of Bury, Rochdale, Stockport and Trafford district councils.

Scrapping Greater Manchester County Council could save £11.5m a year at late 1983 prices, including £3m from highways and almost £5m from policy changes.

April 84  
Price Waterhouse for six Conservative-led district councils.

Extrapolating from estimates in three metropolitan counties there could be a saving of £35m a year at a cost of 3,500 jobs across all six.

September 84  
Staff at Institute of Local Govt Studies, University of Birmingham, commissioned by the metropolitan county councils.

Survey of 60 existing examples of joint board future boards would be dominated either by officers or by disputes among participating councils, or both.

October 84  
PA Management Consultants commissioned by the metropolitan county councils.

The new structure will be more complicated and less accountable to local people. The main weakness of the new system will be its lack of ways of resolving conflicts between different interests and areas in a metropolitan county. No sign of any improvements in local services, and a strong chance of deterioration.

November 84  
Coopers & Lybrand, commissioned by the metropolitan county councils.

This survey of the financial impact of abolition is by far the longest and most lavish of them all, and has been issued in parts through the year. Its main conclusion is that the savings will at best be small and will depend very much on the amount of cooperation between successor authorities. A low level of cooperation could turn the savings into heavy costs.

it. The document described officially as "a full statement of the Government's estimates" of the savings to be won from abolition turned out to be nothing of the kind. The document, issued at the end of November, was just a summary of the complaints made by ministers about the threatened councils over many months.

The worst outcome for the Government would be a parliamentary defeat. In the coming months which would force ministers to change the abolition programme so much that the threatened councils would sail through almost intact. But even if abolition went ahead on time, the Government could be left with an administrative quagmire in the period leading up to the next general election.

HC



After abolition, how will the Town Hall behind South Yorkshire's leader Rod Thwaites be used?

If officialdom in the metropolitan counties has an ideal type, it surely must be Ray O'Brien, the burly chief executive of the Merseyside county council, who after a noteworthy career in local government law and finance returned in 1977 to his native Liverpool: actively to promote not only his council but also the interests of the urban sprawl he can see from his multi-storied office hard by the Liver Building on the edge of the River Mersey.

Mr O'Brien stands out for his wit (not a quality in ready supply in the nation's town halls) and his forcefulness - before which more than one faint-hearted politician has quailed. In the aftermath of the Toxteth riots of 1981 when train loads of Whitehall civil servants and ministers visited Liverpool some were taken aback by Mr O'Brien's fierce independence of mind. No visitor to the county council is left in any doubt, however, about his unswerving loyalty to his local authority and to its role, past and future, in retrieving Liverpool and its environs from social and economic decay.

By background, however, Mr O'Brien is a man of the shire counties rather than the urban areas. He was born and educated in Merseyside. After Oxford and legal training he worked first for Cheshire County Council then Staffordshire before achieving a national reputation in Nottinghamshire where he became chief executive in 1974.

Perhaps more typical of the trajectory of metropolitan county officials is the background of Derrick Hender, chief executive of the West Midlands, who rose through the government of the cities - he was both treasurer and later town clerk of Coventry - before joining the county council at its inception in 1973.

Mr Hender is well known to his colleagues in the municipal world through a succession of articles in *Local Government Chronicle* in which he has abandoned the traditional diffidence of the town clerk and argued strongly against the

## Nightmare of hasty decisions feared

Government's plans for the metropolitan counties.

Here is the flavour of a recent contribution, discussing the establishment by the government of joint boards of the districts to run county-wide services. "The government is quite right to impose tight controls over the boards because it is the only chance of making the system work and local democracy takes second place to expediency."

He went on: "Is there not the chance that some new thoughts on government for the metropolitan areas will emerge? Thoughts suitable for the future rather than the resurrection of forms discarded in the last century."

"The greatest condemnation of the proposals is that they are quaintly old-fashioned."

Emulating Mr Hender in the publicity stakes, is the chief executive of South Yorkshire, recently promoted into the job from his post as county secretary. During the passage of the "paving" bill he is credited with an effective address to an

all-party meeting in the House of Lords. In print, he has railed against the "bureaucratic nightmare" being created by the government's hasty decisions. A more recent arrival at county level is William Miles, new chief executive of West Yorkshire who arrived earlier this year from Gateshead. His predecessor, generally acknowledged as one of the ablest county officials, was Rodney Brooke, who has made the interesting transition from Labour duty to Conservative borough council to become chief executive of Westminster City Council on London.

To be categorized but by no means dismissed as among the quieter officials are the chief men of Greater Manchester and Tyne and Wear. The latter, Jim Gardner, is like other politicians in the North in often being content to do their best by their region without being tempted daily or weekly to board the later City 25 for the capital or stand on platforms or dip their pens in quavery.

Tony Harrison, chief executive of Greater Manchester, says he will soon "until the ship sinks". Heed he has already served longer than all of this colleagues in the metro county level. Before taking the top job at the county in 1976 he was director general of the regional passenger transport authority.

Before the organization of local government, buses and trains in the Manchester area were run by a board covering SELNEC - South East Lancashire and North East Cheshire. In a tribute to his staff during these trying days before abolition, Mr Harrison speaks of "enormous amounts of professionalism and loyalty". The demands for information from centre and district police strains on officials who have their own jobs to do. "You don't let personal feelings in the abolition issue get in the way," he argues. "At some age someone has to be responsible for the practical working of the services. For the time being that's our job. As we'll go on doing it."

But he should that accountability should also happen to chairman of the West Midlands police authority. He stands & asks of directly elected county councillors in the metropolitan areas: "Are you checking and monitoring the work of the police about to abolish the king and monitoring place can on occasions, the authority business. In the Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside on the other counties, the representative



Merseyside leader Neville Gordon: still fighting on

DW

# You passed on...

The Local Government Bill is now in its initial stages in Parliament. It proposes to abolish the six Metropolitan County Councils in England, including Tyne and Wear.

After thorough assessment and advice from independent experts, Tyne and Wear opposes the Government's plans and is still calling for an independent inquiry to examine local government finance and structure. The Government obstinately refuses.

A number of independent reports, commissioned by the Metropolitan County Councils and widely publicised, proves that there is far more than an element of doubt in the Government's demands for abolition.

Mr Baker, the newly-appointed Minister, is now in the hot-seat to mastermind the Local Government Bill but even Mr Baker's score on five straight-forward questions about the basic effects of the Bill is nil. Why? Quite simply, like his predecessor Mr Jenkin, he is unable to find the answers.

This lack of understanding of Metropolitan Counties is apparent in the Local Government Bill and it makes it even more crucial that a Government inquiry is instituted without delay.



Contestant: Kenneth Baker  
Occupation: Minister for Local Government  
Specialist Subject: Metropolitan County Councils

### Democracy

What will the Local Government Bill do for local democracy?

Mr Baker: It will provide a more local, more accountable system.

Independent Answer: Nothing. The new structure will be less accountable to local people than at present.

### Costs

How much would abolition of the Metropolitan County Councils save?

Mr Baker: The estimated net annual savings from rationalisation alone will be about £50 million from 1986/87 onwards.

Independent Answer: Nothing. The most likely estimate is increased costs probably an extra £38 million to £69 million each year.

### Responsibility

Would all County Council services pass to democratically-elected District Councils?

Mr Baker: Responsibility for a wide range of local government activities will be returned to the lower tier.

Independent Answer: No. Full responsibility is only being passed to the District Councils for a few relatively minor services.

### Services

Would the Government's proposals improve local services?

Mr Baker: This Bill will bring about major improvements in local government in our great cities.

Independent Answer: No. Overall we have been unable to find a single service where the quality of service to the local elector is likely to be improved.

### Controls

How many additional powers would be transferred to Whitehall?

Mr Baker: Pass.

Independent Answer: Many. The proposals represent a significant enlargement of the powers of central government in local affairs.

Mr Baker's answers are taken from statements made by him since publication of the Local Government Bill. The independent answers are taken from P.A. Management Consultants. "A study of the non-financial aspects of the proposed abolition of the Metropolitan County Councils," November 1984. Coopers & Lybrand Associates. "Streamlining the cities"

summary report and updated analysis of costs," November 1984. Copies of these reports and other information on the effect of the Government's proposals can be obtained from Tyne and Wear County Council (Room 906), Sandford House, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1ED. Telephone Newcastle (0632) 816144 (extension 235).

Police they

**MARCH 31 1986**

PA provide approach government

**Town**

To achieve require planning value service effect and optim of state smoo policy

PA M



## Police committees: are they a force for good?



At the Stockholm conference of the International Union of Local Authorities last year, the chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Edwin Shore, spoke of a balance between the powers and resources the police needed to combat crime and assure public order and a need to protect the rights and liberties of the individual.

"It is in the interest of the police," Mr Shore said, "that they should actively seek the involvement of the local community. High levels in the incidence of crime, violence, and lawlessness generally are related to poor housing, inadequate education, unemployment, lack of leisure facilities, and environmental conditions."

An understanding of these conditions enables the police to carry out their duties in a sensitive manner. The more the police become part of the local community and are identified with it the easier their task must become.

Conventional wisdom? The sentiments would be endorsed on all sides of politics, not least by the Home Secretary and his officials who have said similar things themselves on many occasions.

But Mr Shore continued. "The efforts of local government to improve services and the environment are as crucial to law and order as are the efforts of the police to preserve law and order."

By the same token there ought also to be accountability to the local electorate for the police service. This is as much a part of local government as all the other interdependent services based upon and provided by the local authority.

Again, in public at least, the Home Office would take no exception to this. But how should that accountability be exercised and by whom? Mr Shore also happens to be chairman of the West Midlands police authority. He stands for the role of directly elected county councillors in the metropolitan areas in checking and monitoring the work of the police. It is a role the Government is about to abolish.

Checking and monitoring the police can, on occasion, be a controversial business. In South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester or in Merseyside or the other counties, the representatives of



Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, Peter Wright in the middle of the mining dispute

the local community — county councillors — have come into conflict with both senior police officers and the Home Office. In Councillor Shore's terms, such controversy is the stuff of "community relations" in the broadest sense. Take it away and the balance between law and freedom is unsettled. The replacement of police committees of county councillors by nominees of the districts will not do, say the counties — that is democracy at one remove, a recipe for public obfuscation and alienation.

The metropolitan districts, it must be said, take a different view. Ron Watson, leader of Conservative-controlled Sefton, which covers Crosby and Southport, said recently that

*There has been a running altercation in public as well as in private between a chief constable and councillors*

Joint boards would contain elected councillors from councils which have annual elections "and can fairly claim to be much more accountable than the present Merseyside county."

Some examples from the past few years make the point that, comfortable or not, the police service is the threatened counties is under scrutiny.

● The miners' strike. Since the beginning of the dispute both the West and South Yorkshire police committees have actively surveyed the operations of their respective chief constables, as have the other metropolitan county councils when officers from their forces have done

picket duty. In South Yorkshire matters came to a head in early summer when the police committee tried to disallow spending by the chief constable in connection with the strike without their prior approval. The matter was taken before the High Court where Lord Justice Watkins said: "I want to make sure that the chief constable is free to take whatever steps he believes are necessary to maintain law and order."

● In the aftermath of the Toxteth riots, the Merseyside police committee wanted to call the chief constable, Kenneth Oxford, to account for his operational decisions and the provision of anti-riot gear. CS gas and baton rounds. Lady Simey, the police committee chairman, said strained relations with Mr Oxford were due to the councillors trying to exercise their responsibilities as set down by law. "There has to be political control", she said.

● There has been a running altercation in public as well as in private between James Anderson, chief constable of Greater Manchester, and the Labour councillors. Mr Anderson's habit of making public expression of controversial views on moral issues did not endear him to the committee. But elsewhere in the West Midlands, for example, where rarely is a cross word exchanged between Sir Philip Knights, the chief constable, and the councillors, police-community relations are handled differently — an indication of how far representative local government may reflect cultural variation between different parts of the country.

DW

## Transport: Praise from Whitehall

Probably the most potent symbol of the success of the metropolitan counties in coordinating public transport in their areas is visible on entering the old train station in Tyneside. It is a map. It shows the schoolchild Whitley Bay seven minutes away by metro-rail, the shopper the spending opportunities of Eldon Square only 25 minutes distant, the Tynesider easy access to friends and relatives whether they live in Gateshead or Walker. The Tyne and Wear metro-rail undoubtedly serves to unify the conurbation.

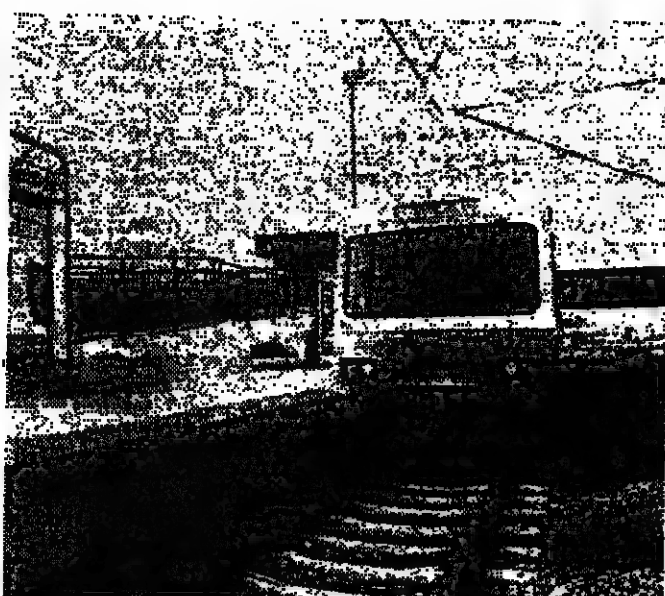
Tyne and Wear's metro-rail, part new construction, part take-over of redundant British Rail track, is famous. It cost more than £100m and has contributed, since 1975, to a 10 per cent increase in passenger numbers on the county's buses and trains; it would not have been built without a single county-wide public transport authority.

The need for unitary arrangements for transport in the counties is widely agreed. The county passenger transport executives have coordinated services and established a strategic framework of policy. John Welsby, a British Rail director told a recent Association of Metropolitan Authorities Conference his perception is evidently shared within the Department of Transport which insisted on joint boards for transport after abolition.

One of the Government's main objections to the metropolitan county councils is that they comprise an "unnecessary tier" of local administration. Ever since that claim was made, it has proved easier for the Greater London Council to argue against it than for the county councils. One reason is that the GLC has more money than any of the metropolitan county councils to spend on publicizing its case.

Another is that the GLC and its predecessor authorities have had a long period of metropolitan government in London. But the most important card held by the GLC is that it administers the capital city. How, it can argue, can you have a capital city with no single authority to represent its interests? It is one thing to argue that Westminster City Council cannot provide an adequate voice for the whole of inner London. It is quite another to suggest that Birmingham City Council cannot adequately represent inner Birmingham.

The metropolitan county councils realized that their defence would have to be more subtle. They believed that they



On land with Tyne and Wear's metro line and right, councillor Gordon Morgan, sings the praises of regional airports

The Government accepts the need for a single authority providing buses and trains from Sheffield to Barnsley, under the Mersey, between Leeds and Bradford, from Birmingham to West Bromwich. There are even, in some Whitehall quarters, words of praise for Merseyside's "looplink" with British Rail, for Greater Manchester's light rail plans. What has exercised the government — what indeed was a factor in the abolition plan itself — is the spending policies of the coun-

ties. Here, from the Government's point of view, the dire example is South Yorkshire and the Labour-controlled county council's deliberate decision to run a cheap-fares, intensively-used bus system.

This, in the words of Mrs Lynda Chalker, the junior transport minister, constituted a refusal on the part of the county councils to "face reality": their spending on support for passenger transport was too high; levels of fares subsidy too great; manning levels unacceptable to

the Government; whatever local opinion might be expressed.

Under the abolition plans, the Department of Transport will take direct control of fares and service levels in the metropolitan counties since it will have the power to set the passenger boards' budgets. The Tyne and Wear metro will continue, it appears, but the fares will rise and the frequency of service will be decided on the banks of the River Thames.

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## Airports fly into profit

Five major regional airports are affected by the fate of the metropolitan counties — Birmingham, Leeds/Bradford, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle. "The Government," says the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, "just did not seem to be aware of what was happening there." The five airports made an £18 million operating surplus in 1982-83, a testimony (say the county councils) to their effective management.

The West Midlands County Council says that over the five-year period prior to the county's creation, the Birmingham Airport was being run at a £350,000 deficit. Since then its operation has been "remarkably successful" with an increasing range of air transport services for the Midlands and extensive domestic and international scheduled and charter services.

Passenger numbers have increased from 700,000 in 1970 to 1,600,568 in 1982-83. The county council forecasts that by 1990 at least 2,000 new jobs will have been created at the airport and in adjacent hotels. Work has been completed on a new passenger terminal linked by an innovative transport system — MACELEY, featuring elevated track vehicles.

## Abroad in Metro land

could point to achievements and advantages no less solid than those of the GLC.

Their search for data to support their rejection of the Government's claim that they are unnecessary has taken the metropolitan authorities abroad. Alan Norton, of the Institute of Local Government Studies at the University of Birmingham was commissioned by the county councils to examine city government in eight democratic countries.

"The turbulent history of recent local government change in England amazes our continental neighbours," Mr Norton

wrote. "Nowhere else does there appear to be a similar sharp polarization of policies between political parties."

One of the successes he found was Metropolitan Toronto authority whose area stretches for more than 20 miles along the shore of Lake Ontario. Half of the councillors are nominated by the six smaller councils in the area and half are the mayors and senior members of those councils.

The council is therefore elected by a method unknown in Britain. It also has powers that go beyond those of Metropolitan county in Eng-

land. They include ambulance services, for example.

Mr Norton found evidence that the metropolitan authority in Toronto had acted as a useful point of diffusion between the Government and the local councils. He found local satisfaction with the metropolitan authority's role as strategic planner and provider of an integrated transport system across the boundaries of the smaller local councils.

Councils in Sweden have the power to raise a local income tax and the small local councils below the county level supply water and power which in Britain would be provided by Nationalized industries. The work of Stockholm County Council has been examined minutely in Sweden and has proved an acceptable agency for transport planning and development control.

Greater Copenhagen Council has a tiny staff to meet some of the needs of a third of the population of Denmark. Its main role has been in land use

planning and development control. Barcelona Metropolitan Corporation in Spain is a recent indirectly — elected creation which is responsible for planning.

Mr Norton found that the corporation had fulfilled a role like that which the English metropolitan county councils have set out for themselves.

"The strongest impression on the author is of local leaders, responsible to local electorates, struggling with and developing truly local solutions to the metropolitan problem," he wrote.

The councils he studied had wrestled with the difficulty of providing a buffer between the central power in a country and the small local councils, many of which are much smaller than the metropolitan districts in England. In some cases the wrestling was more conspicuous than its result. But some of the countries which have adopted a pattern of metropolitan administration which is geographically comparable to that of the English counties have no intention of getting rid of it.

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Enterprise boards: socialism with capitalism



Swallowing a century of regional pride Birmingham and the Black Country a fortnight ago joined the Government's list of "assisted areas". The West Midlands - where since 1978 some 25,000 jobs in manufacturing have disappeared - will now qualify for development grants. But no-one locally imagines that new Department of Trade and Industry money can of itself turn around the recession-ridden regional economy. On the contrary, says Geoff Edge, chairman of the West Midlands County Council's economic development committee, "West Midlanders must do what they can themselves to pull the region out of recession and halt the frightening prospects of further decline."

It is a message which chimes with Birmingham's tradition of self-help and municipal activism. The city council is a keen promoter of the city as the "heart of England" and its development projects include the Birmingham International Exhibition Centre and new hotels and a conference centre in the middle of the city.

The Labour administration of the county council has been active, too, through the medium of the West Midlands Enterprise Board in generating investment in the area. "We have a proud tradition in the Black Country of innovation and resourcefulness and these quantities are needed now more than ever before," says Mr Edge who doubles as chairman of the board.

Trying to fill a financial gap

The enterprise board is itself an innovation. The idea of a municipal enterprise board intervening in the local economy to re-structure private firms was a spin off from the work of Stuart Holland, Robin Young and other academics influenced by Italian models: the national enterprise board set up by the last Labour government had the same roots. It represents a kind of rapprochement between socialism (the local council) and capitalism (the firm needing capital investment): the firm sees its profitability enhanced, the council sees jobs created and the West Midlands board stipulates this in contracts - minimum health and safety standards enforced and trade unions recognized.

According to Mr Edge "the board is a public sector development capital company which was set up to provide

Strict money terms only

primarily equity, also long term loan finance to West Midlands companies. There are many companies which have survived the recession, but which now need new finance."

Beneficiaries of the board's £6.5 million investment include Amalloy, a steel foundry in the Black Country; Kirby's of Oldbury, the last British-owned manufacturer of cardboard box making equipment; and Welding Robotics of Wolverhampton.

The board's interest does not extend only to the traditional "metal-banging" industries of the West Midlands. It is proud of its £125,000 stake in E. R. Hammersley & Co, a supplier of trendy garb to Saks of Fifth Avenue, and the workforce increased by nearly 100 after the capital injection.

As long ago as 1978 Merseyside County Council, then Conservative controlled, set up MERCEDO, the Merseyside Economic Development Office to provide advice on business development, sites and properties. Later the council spun off a limited company with a £3 million investment fund. It sponsors an agency for promoting the growth of workers' cooperatives and an agency for training both young people and adults in new technology. There is now a veritable alphabet of Merseyside economic initiatives in which the county council has a hand, from the Merseyside Enterprise Forum to the Wave-tree Technology Park, a joint venture with Liverpool City Council, the Plessey Company and English Industrial Estates.

The virtue of the metropolitan counties, according to Marie Eade, chairman of the employment sub-committee of the West Yorkshire County Council is that they combine democratic accountability with the scale necessary to tackle the problems of industrial decline in conurbation Britain.

Mrs Eade says: "West Yorkshire County Council has a programme of building industrial access roads, servicing land for industrial development, training workers for new jobs, making grants to small firms and cooperatives, and providing venture capital."

DW

"All in all the county has created or saved 8,000 jobs in the local economy in close cooperation with local business and commerce. A further 12,000 jobs are in the pipeline."

Yet all county leaders nowadays define their economic role in terms much wider than enterprise boards or development committees. In evidence it gave to the House of Commons' environment committee examining the problems of management or urban renewal, Tyne and Wear County Council defined their task as that of coordinating a myriad of efforts to stimulate jobs and refurbish the housing, roads and other infrastructure of Newcastle, Sunderland and Gateshead.

In its memorandum to MPs, the county said it was the most appropriate body to coordinate the renewal programme; it alone covered the whole conurbation and was well placed both to assess the competing needs of areas within the conurbation and to operate the necessary countywide services.

Investing in a new kind of job

In testimony in the House of Commons, the leader of Tyne and Wear cited the county's work in packaging the presentation of the North East to Nissan which indeed eventually decided to locate its new motor assembly plant there. Jim Gardner, chief executive of Tyne and Wear, said the degree of cooperation between county and districts was "unique" in the metropolitan areas.

Back in the West Midlands, the county council is at pains to define "economic development" to include much more than investing in firms. Jobs cannot always be provided by traditional capitalistic forms says the council. It emphasizes the role of workers' cooperatives and "community enterprises". To date £363,320 worth of grants have been made to 42 cooperatives, paying for about 200 jobs.

Beyond that, the council says that despite its best efforts, low pay, poverty and unemployment will persist and its job is to assist the poor. For example by encouraging the fullest possible take up of social security benefits. It has sponsored four local "take-up" campaigns in Birmingham, Chelmsley Wood, Sandwell and Dudley which, it says, have generated more than £3.5 million a year in extra benefit payments. "We include all these in our wide-ranging approach to economic development," says Mr Edge.

Parks and pleasure: the forgotten factor?

Ministers claim that the metropolitan county councils are not worth keeping because they have far too little to do. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, made the point at the annual meeting of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. "If you look at what these councils actually do - or rather don't do - the exaggerated claims of their defenders just don't stand up."

"The metropolitan councils are not, for example, responsible for education or housing or personal social services," he went on. "Nor are they responsible for health, water, sewerage, street-cleaning or even crematoria."

It was a long list, long enough to include two items which English councils never handle. Water and health are administered by their own special authorities and not by directly-elected councillors. Despite Mr Jenkin's ready dismissal, the metropolitan county councils think they have plenty to do. PA Management Consultants, which undertook one of several surveys for the counties about the effects of abolition, identified 42 functions which are still left to the threatened councils.

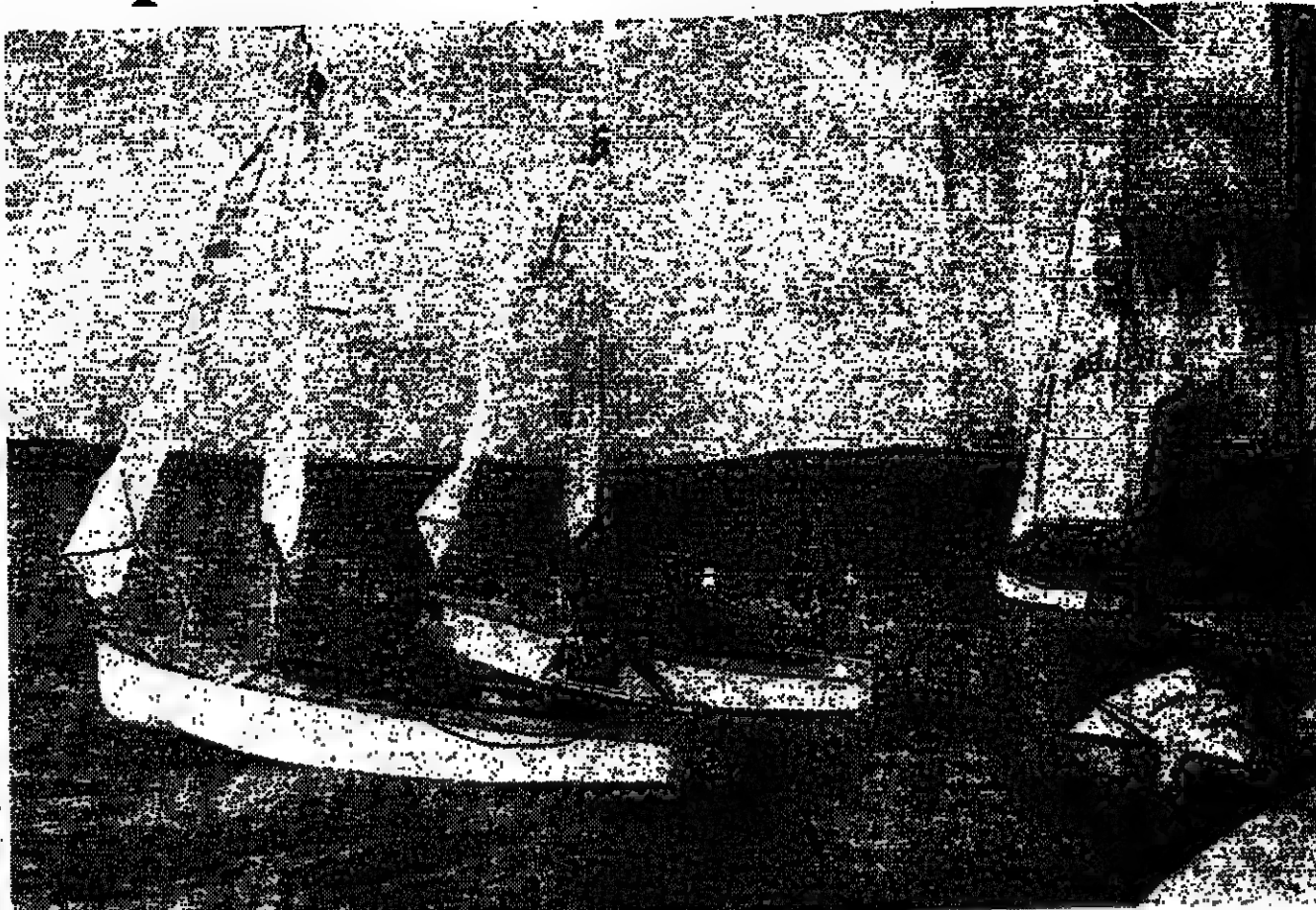
They are worried that some of their uncontroversial work will be dissipated if abolition goes ahead because the main aim afterwards will be to prove to ratepayers that savings can be delivered. Council staff who work in non-political areas feel unfairly associated with criticism of bizarre grants paid by some Labour-led councils.

Though the metropolitan county councils cover some of the most densely-populated regions of Britain, they have always shown a strong interest in protecting the countryside. Surprisingly large portions of their areas have not yet been built on. - Half of Greater Manchester and well over a third of Tyne and Wear have

Staff in non-political areas feel unfairly associated with criticism of bizarre grants paid by some Labour-led councils

not yet been swallowed up by urban development.

Recreational work in Tyne and Wear has been split, with the district looking after provision in the towns and the county authority taking responsibility for the countryside. It has organized the signposting and mapping of hundreds of miles of public footpaths and cycle routes and has developed more than 1,000 acres of country parks and picnic sites.



The other side of council expenditure: a boating lake in a reclaimed open-cast site of the Rother Valley

One of the hardest rural tasks for the metropolitan county authorities is to make the urban fringe suitable for recreation and to prevent it from becoming an eyesore. That is where people like to dump their old cars and washing machines, ride their motorcycles through the mud and part company with their unwanted dogs.

Like the other metropolitan counties Tyne and Wear has taken a lead in organizing Green Belt status for land of high landscape and recreational value on the urban fringe. Tyne and Wear's council rural management team is financed partly by the Countryside Commission, a quango which safeguards areas of high landscape value against development.

The commission has told the Government that it is worried about the threat from abolition to "the substantial work done by metropolitan county councils and the GLC in providing country parks and their recreational facilities in the countryside." It also fears that abolition will weaken Green Belt protection.

The main aim of the Green Belt is to contain urban sprawl which would otherwise join

separate towns into great urban masses and to restrict suburban development in open countryside and unspoiled villages.

But the metropolitan councils do not just restrict development. They stimulate it as well. The Rother Valley country park on the borders of South Yorkshire, between Sheffield and Chesterfield, is one of the most striking examples of a feat of recreational engineering masterminded by a metropolitan county council.

The South Yorkshire authority started to plan the park before opencast mining began in the valley in the late 1970s. The site of more than 700 acres now has a lake, golf course and 150,000 specially planted trees and shrubs.

Most of the £7m cost of the project is being met by South Yorkshire Council with help from Derbyshire County Council and the Countryside Commission. The commission has told the ministers that abolition of the metropolitan county councils would threaten the survival of much of their environmental work.

The commission adds that if abolition goes ahead it should

itself be given enough. Government cash to make up for the money now being spent by the metropolitan counties in the countryside, West Midlands, for example, has a landscape and reclamation team of 30 which works mainly on reclaiming derelict land. The county, which

The Countryside Commission has told ministers that abolition would threaten the survival of much of its environmental work

includes much of the heartland of the 19th century industrial revolution, has plenty of derelict sites, and their number has increased in the recession of recent years.

The Government has said that it wants specialist environmental work to be continued after abolition by the smaller councils. But it has also made it clear that one of the areas in which it expects considerable job losses through abolition is in the planning departments of the county councils.

Another non-political activity, in which the prospect of

abolition alarms specialists is the conservation of historic archives. The act of abolition itself will add considerably to the collections held by the threatened councils. Together they hold literally miles of documents and photographs which the district councils are supposed to organize coherently after abolition.

West Yorkshire is the only metropolitan county with the joint arrangements among districts - councils which the Government wants to see throughout the six areas after abolition. West Midlands has no county records office, but they exist in each of the other four metropolitan county councils. Almost half the district councils in those four counties have no archive service.

Archivists have advised the Government to create county-wide services after abolition: that the existing facilities can survive intact. But that would entail reinventing a piece of the present county council structure after abolition and would make it harder for the Government to show that the process had produced savings.

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The Local Government (Abolition) Bill 1984

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THE TIMES

"a document lacking coherent principles for local administration"  
24 November 1984

"Government has landed itself in a ghastly mess - Heath"  
5 December 1984

"a document lacking any sense of a future"  
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"Councils abolition 'will cost £1,000m'"  
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Daily Telegraph

"Heath attacks abolition of counties as 'move for power'"  
5 December 1984

"abolition cost 'could' be £69m"  
29 November 1984

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"the government has produced a botched job"  
25 November 1984

THE GUARDIAN

"Huge power to interfere"  
24 November 1984



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86	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
87	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
88	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
89	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
90	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
91	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
92	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
93	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
94	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
95	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
96	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
97	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
98	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
99	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20
100	Brinkley	112.00	+0.25	1.00	11.20

WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20	11.20

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

## BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## UNRATED

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## INDEX-LINKED

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## BREWERIES

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## ELECTRICALS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES  
Shares firm at close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 21. Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7.  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E	1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E	1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E
112.00	112.00	112.00

## BUILDING AND ROADS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## FINANCE AND LAND

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## FOODS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## HOTELS AND CATERERS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## CINEMAS AND TV

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## DRAPERY AND STORES

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## SHIPPING

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## SHOES AND LEATHER

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## TEXTILES

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## TOBACCO

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## MOTORCARS AND AIRCRAFT

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## S-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## E-K

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## L-R

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## O-T

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## U-V

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## W-X

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## Y-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## A-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## A-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## A-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## A-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## A-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

THE TIMES  
Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND  
£2,000

Claims required for  
+32 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

## OIL

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## PROPERTY

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## MINING

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## SHIPPING

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## SHOES AND LEATHER

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## TEXTILES

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## TOBACCO

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## MOTORCARS AND AIRCRAFT

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## S-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## E-K

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## L-R

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## O-T

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## U-V

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## W-X

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## Y-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## A-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

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1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## A-Z

1984 High Low Company Price Change Dividend P/E

## A-Z



## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Taxation on pensions remains an open issue

The Government has finally reacted to the growing consternation, caused by widespread rumours that the tax treatment of pensions will be altered in the next Budget. Yesterday and by Wednesday ministers made comments which are likely to be the last on taxation issues before the chancellor goes into pre-Budget purdah. The Prime Minister was characteristically forthright about mortgage interest relief, as it will not be abolished while she is in the Downing seat, were distinctly vague.

In reply to a parliamentary question yesterday asking him to comment on the rumours that tax concessions on pensions were to be reduced Mr Nigel Lawson said he would not confirm or deny the rumours. On the specific question of taxing lump sums taken on retirement he said: "There is no reason for anyone to retire early on account of such rumours. This government would not propose, and the House would not accept, retrospective legislation of the kind."

What exactly does "retroactive" mean in this context? MPs tried to pin the Chancellor down, but he would not have it.

The most likely inference is that all pension contributions made up to the date a tax was imposed would be tax free when finally taken as a lump sum. Contributions made subsequently would be taxable. If this proves a correct guess, the change would take a good 40 years to work fully into the pension system and would bring in minimal revenue in the early years.

Another inference, however, is that any new tax would not be backdated from the time the 1985 Finance Bill was passed to the date it was first announced in the Budget statement. If that is what the Chancellor meant, we are in for a far more sweeping tax change.

Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, did not clarify matters when he told a conference of businessmen yesterday: "None of you need rush to retire between now and the Budget."

The Government is certainly not committed to a tax lump sum. Nothing has been said about taxing pension contributions or pension fund investments. The air therefore will remain thick with doubt. The CBI, amongst others, remains "extremely concerned." The National Association of Pension Funds merely welcomes the statement "as far as it goes."

On the subject of mortgage interest relief, the Prime Minister, declared her unequivocal support on Wednesday. She told the National Housebuilders' Council, "you want mortgage interest relief to continue. It will." She did not make clear, however, whether, as many suspect, the rate of relief will be reduced from marginal rates to a flat 30 per cent.

She also said that the Government would vigorously resist any attempt to introduce value added tax on new housing.

## Harmony at Lazards; strife at Montagu

Sir John Nott, the defence secretary at the time of the Falklands conflict, is to succeed Mr Ian Fraser as chairman and chief executive of Lazard Brothers when Mr Fraser reaches the bank's retirement age of 62 in August. A number of other important appointments and promotions have been made.

At Samuel Montagu, in very different circumstances, Mr Staffan Gadd is leaving his £139,000 a year chairmanship after a clash of wills, unusual in the refined environment of merchant banking parlours.

Swedish born Mr Gadd has served four years of a seven-year contract with Montagu: his departure will involve "substantial" compensation.

Midland Bank owners of Montagu with US insurance group, Aetna Life and Casualty, said that because of the rapidly changing nature of domestic and international financial markets it felt that the Montagu's strategic development required integration at policy level so that "Aetna, Midland and Montagu mobilize their combined resources and expertise as effectively as possible." Mr Gadd, who is to be succeeded by Sir Michael Palliser, the former head of the diplomatic service and previously a Montagu non-executive director, believed in a degree of independence which Montagu's shareholders decided was unacceptable.

Mr Gadd's abrupt resignation is a by-product of the major corporate and structural changes that have been occurring in the City over the last two years - changes to which Mr Walter Wriston directs his experienced mind in the last of six articles published in *The Times* on this subject (page 27).

News of Mr Gadd's departure was released by the Midland Bank late on Wednesday night. In 11 Mr Gadd said: "In view of the differences over development policy I think it better to resign in an amicable way and pursue other interests."

His departure should quell persistent suggestions that Midland is about to sell its interest in Montagu. Mr Fraser would not admit it, but he must have been quietly smiling to himself about the Montagu blood letting as he contemplated the deliberately restrained attitude Lazard has taken to events now changing the face of the City. He may have been thinking of brokers W Greenwell, which is being bought by Montagu when he asked: "Why splash out £50 million of goodwill on a stockbroker or jobber? £50 million spent on goodwill is £50 million off your capital base and £50 million less available for banking?" Incidentally, Greenwell's senior partner, Mr Gordon Pepper, is joining the Montagu board as part of the shake-up.

"With all these conflicts of interest building up," Mr Fraser, who will be retiring to his farm in Somerset to rear sheep, said, "I think the whole system is heading for the most costly problems." Sir John Nott, who while at S G Warburg in the early 1960s was responsible for inventing the Municipal Yearling bond, believes there are rich rewards to be had by adopting the "niche approach" to change.

Among yesterday's new appointments at Lazard's was Mr Gilbert Scharf, aged 36, a US citizen and for many years a managing director of Morgan Stanley. He will be responsible for developing the kind of capital markets activities which have made Lazard Freres in New York into one of the most highly profitable investment banking operations in the United States.

Mr Scharf is a long-standing associate of Mr Mezza-Cappa, the partner of Lazard Freres in New York who has developed specialized block trading in debt and equities into a minor art form. Mr Scharf hopes to repeat his success in Britain. His will be a quite different market making business from that other merchant banks are attempting to set up. And Sir John hopes, much more profitable.

Mr David Verey, is to become, at the age of 34, deputy chief executive and managing director of the merchant bank. Mr Verner Wylie, Mr Tom Manners and Mr Peter Grant become deputy chairmen, and Mr Marcus Agius aged 38, will be a managing director.

# Hambro Life suspends shares after mystery bid approach

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Mark Weinberg's life assurance group Hambro Life halted dealings in its shares yesterday later confirming it had received a bid approach.

After the suspension there was immediate speculation that Charterhouse J. Rothschild, the investment management and banking group, had sold its 24.9 per cent shareholding to a potential bidder.

There had been heavy turnover in the shares before they were halted at 495p, up 25p on the day, valuing the group at £580 million. The shares have come up from 357p this year.

Mr Weinberg said: "We have received an approach for our shares. It is a serious approach and because the share price started moving we decided to call a halt to dealings." He declined to comment on whether the would-be bidder was a British or American group. "At this stage I cannot comment further. There should be a further statement from us by Monday at the latest."



Mark Weinberg (left) and Jacob Rothschild: cooperation in certain areas

BAT Industries was being strongly tipped as a likely bidder. It already owns the Eagle Star insurance business, which it bought for more than £900 million. A spokesman said: "We don't comment on market rumours."



The Charterhouse stake had been thought to be up for sale since the two groups failed to agree on a £1,000 million merger in the summer. Charterhouse bought the block of 30 million shares from Hambros, the merchant bank which had been steadily reducing its

holding in the insurance group, for 41p a share. If it has struck a deal, it stands to make a considerable profit on its investment.

Other potential suitors being linked with Hambro Life include the American banking group Citicorp, and Security Pacific.

Mr Jacob Rothschild, head of CJR, had hoped to create with Mr Weinberg's expertise in life assurance a formidable financial services operation and acquired his shareholding as a keystone of the deal.

But while their discussions went on there were widespread rumblings that all was not well and the market began to adopt a jaundiced view of the financial merits of the marriage.

In the end the groups agreed that a "financial merger would be likely to be valued at less than the sum of its two parts" - and Rothschild was left with its stake in exchange for vague mutterings about cooperation in certain areas.

## End curbs on textile imports, says study

By Sarah Hogg

Britain would benefit from ending import restrictions on textiles and clothing, according to a report commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Professor Aubrey Silberston, of Imperial College, was asked to study the effect on Britain of export and import restrictions in textiles and clothing, in preparation for an international review of the third Multi-Fibre Arrangement, which expires in 1986.

Professor Silberston concludes that Britain would gain free trade liberalization and that job losses in the textile and clothing industry would be more than offset by employment gains elsewhere in the economy. Aided by economic simulations by Cambridge Econometrics, he finds that:

● The system of import quotas adds about 10 per cent to the prices of imported textiles and clothing and 5 per cent to the domestic prices of such goods.

● Between 10,000 and 50,000 jobs in the textile and clothing industry would be lost if the import restrictions were to be wound down.

● About 150,000 more jobs are likely to be lost in these two industries in Britain by the early 1990s, because of the need to achieve rapid increases in productivity in order to compete with suppliers who do have access to Britain.

● The cost to the British consumer of import restrictions amounted to more than £10,000 per job saved in 1982 prices. This was more than the value-added per employee in these industries and nearly twice as much as their average earnings in 1982.

The gains from liberalization would be thinly spread across the economy, while the costs would be concentrated in certain regions. However, Professor Silberston, said: "It would be dangerous to be swayed unduly by this consideration, since it leads in the direction of rigidity and progressive weakening."

Leading article, page 13

## MPs reject further aid for BNOC

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Losses on oil trading by the Government's British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) will be debated by Parliament next Tuesday. A recommendation will be put to the House that no further aid should be given unless the Government admits that BNOC is being used deliberately to support the world oil price.

The Parliamentary Energy Select Committee has approved the additional £45 million that BNOC is now being given by the Government to cover losses on North Sea oil trading.

However, the committee said yesterday: "What the committee believes quite acceptable would be for any further supplementary estimate to be presented in the New Year to cover further losses by BNOC unless the Government is prepared expressly to announce that its policy is to use BNOC's agreements to support the price of oil."

"The committee, the House and the country will not want to see good money following what may turn out to have been bad."

The committee says that after its investigation into the role of BNOC and its need for

£45 million of Government finance to cover losses it believes that the Government does not have a policy for North Sea prices and should take responsibility.

BNOC argued before the committee that the rules under which it operated gave it little room for manoeuvre. The corporation lost money because it was committed to buy in oil on contract at a price lower than it could sell it for on the open market after its long-term purchasers ended their contracts.

The committee adds: "In principle, the committee believes that giving the trading arm of Government a separate name and corporate identity need not necessarily be wrong, but it considers that government details that it has tried to exercise any influence in establishing North Sea oil prices are at best unhelpful and at worst misleading."

The Government's role in North Sea oil pricing will be defended in the Commons next Tuesday by the Energy Minister Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith on the eve of a full-scale ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

## Output falls in factories after gains

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent

Manufacturing output fell by 0.7 per cent in October - against the trend of recent months. However, increased North Sea oil production, together with a small rise in coal output, resulted in a 0.8 per cent increase in overall industrial production.

Despite the October fall, manufacturing output in the latest three months was 1.3 per cent up on the previous period. The chemicals industry, which is benefiting from sterling weakness against the dollar, raised its output by 5 per cent over the latest three months, electrical and instrument engineering, including computers, was up 3 per cent, and motor vehicles and parts' output was up 4 per cent.

October's fall in manufacturing output is partly explained by an upward revision of the figures for earlier months.

The Department of Trade and Industry's latest investment intentions survey shows that manufacturing industry plans to increase investment by 7 per cent in 1985, compared with 1984, followed by a slowdown in 1986.

## Pound falls to \$1.19

Sterling dropped 95 points to \$1.1900 yesterday, as the dollar was boosted by a 1.8 per cent jump in US retail sales last month, and the oil market remained weak.

The dollar was generally strong, gaining nearly two pence against the Deutsche mark to DM3.1047. The dollar index rose 0.3 to 143.1, while the sterling index fell 0.2 to 74.3.

Sterling also lost 80 points to DM3.6935 against the Deutschmark, and nearly three centimes to Fr11.3225 against the French franc.

## AE recovers

AE, the motor components group, made a sharp recovery in its pre-tax profits from £400,000 to £17.3 million for the year to the end of September. A final dividend of 2.5p is recommended, boosting the total for the year from 1.4p to 4.25p.

## Smith record

Smith Brothers yesterday produced record first-half earnings, up 123 per cent to £1.78 million, despite losses from the international dealing side. The second half has started well and international trading is improving. *Tempus*, page 25

## Unigate ahead

Unigate, the dairy and meat products group, has increased pre-tax for the six months to September 30 to £25.9 million, up from £23.6 million. Turnover increased from £855.5 million to £931.1 million. The interim dividend is lifted to 3p, against 2.75p last time. *Tempus*, page 25

## Team work

Mr David Evans, chairman of the Brengreen cleaning group, in which Mr Michael Ashcroft's conglomerate Hawley Group has acquired a 14.9 per cent stake, said that if Hawley made a full bid, "At the right price Evans and Ashcroft would make a formidable team in the cleaning business." In the stock market yesterday Brengreen shares rose a further 2½p to 59p.

## Dividend up

RHP, the bearing manufacturer, is to pay a final dividend of 1.75p (0.75p) for the year to September 28, after improvement in profits from £660,000 to £6.2 million. At the earnings level, RHP has swung from losses of £1.3 million to profits of £5.1 million. Sales improved from £102 million to £106 million. *Tempus*, page 25

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ACCOUNT	EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE NET OF BASIC RATE TAX*	GROSS ANNUAL INTEREST RATE OR EQUIVALENT*
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MIDLAND - HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.89%	9.84%
M & G/KLEINWORT BENSON - HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.82%	9.74%
TYNDALL - MONEY ACCOUNT	6.80%	9.71%
SCHRODERS - SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR £10,000+	6.76%	9.65%
BRITANNIA/CATER ALLEN - HIGH INTEREST CURRENT ACCOUNT	6.76%	9.65%
BANK OF SCOTLAND - MONEY MARKET CHEQUE ACCOUNT	6.76%	9.65%
BARCLAYS - PRIME ACCOUNT	6.70%	9.57%
SAVE & PROSPER - PREMIER HIGH INTEREST BANK ACCOUNT	6.59%	9.41%

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London: Bank Base 9% - 9%, 3-month Interbank 9%, 9%, 3-month eligible bills 9% - 9% buying rate

US: Prime Rate 11.25 - 11.50 Federal Funds 8% 3-month Treasury Bills 8.25 - 8.25 Long bond 10 1/4% - 10 1/4%

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Please send full details and an application card. Minimum investment £100. Maximum £100,000 per person. £60,000 joint account. I/We understand that rates may vary and interest will be credited to the account half yearly.

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Get the Abbey Habit

## Greycoat in £66m takeover

By Judith Huntley

Commercial Property Correspondent

Greycoat City Offices has made a £66 million agreed bid for Churchbury Estates and the minority interests of Law Land in a cash and shares offer.

The directors of Greycoat, Churchbury and the minority shareholders in Law Land have agreed terms to acquire all the ordinary shares in Churchbury and Law Land.

Sir Henry Warner, the former chairman of Law Land, has agreed to accept the offer for the 10.7 per cent of the Law Land shares not held by Churchbury, therefore obtaining better terms for minority shareholders.

The takeover means that Mr Oliver Marriott, Churchbury Estates' chairman, will cease to have any connection with the merged company.

As recompense the four executive directors will receive a total of £291,000, with Mr Marriott receiving £97,000. Mr Marriott said that he had enough confidence in the Greycoat board whose chairman is Lord Chelmer, not to want representation in the merged company.

Churchbury shareholders will be offered 12 Greycoat ordinary shares and unsecured loan shares for every four shares with three Law Land shares being exchanged for either two Greycoat ordinary shares and/or cash or loan stock.

The new Greycoat ordinary shares will rank at the same rate as existing shares.

## Waddington bid lapses

Mr Robert Maxwell's £44 million takeover bid for John Waddington was formally defeated last night. By the close, Mr Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation had gained acceptance of only 7.06 per cent of the shares for his 500p a share cash offer.

Waddington shares dropped 37p to 465p as the bid lapsed yesterday afternoon. Mr Maxwell had conceded defeat 24 hours earlier, although he thought that a subsequent drop in the Waddington share price might cause some institutional holders which had supported the board to change sides.

Mr Maxwell's bid was for 500p a share cash offer.

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## Record sales in US shops

From Bailey Morris, Washington

US retail sales increased strongly last month, rising 1.8 per cent to a record \$110.3 billion (£92.7 billion).

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said the November gain was a healthy and welcome sign of continued growth in the midst of a downturn which has adversely affected almost every sector of the US economy.

Commerce department officials said that the figures reflected an early burst of Christmas shopping resulting in the strongest monthly gain since April. Economists blame a sudden drop in consumer demand during the summer for

the dramatic slowdown in US growth.

But both administration officials and private economists warned against reading too much into the November figure. Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, said that he feared the Christmas selling season will be less buoyant than expected because of continuing high interest rates.

As concern over the slowdown has increased, pressure has grown on the US Federal Reserve Board, which acts as a central bank, to ease credit control. Mr Regan has criticized the board's monetary policies as "penurious".

## MARKET SUMMARY

### STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	927.6 (+5.3)
FT-A All Share	574.18 (+1.59)
FT Govt Securities	82.58 (-0.33)
FT-SE 100	1196.7 (+8.0)
Bargains	29.455
Dallas USM	105.78 (-0.64)
New York	
Dow Jones	1173.91 (-1.21)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,340.05 (-42.29)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1126.49 (+8.26)
Amsterdam	178.5 (+0.1)
Sidney: AO	716.4 (-4.9)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1084.5 (-2.6)
Brussels	
General	158.22 (-0.09)
Paris: CAC	180.9 (unchanged)
Zurich	
SKA General	318.80 (-0.5)

### GOLD

London fixing:	
am \$326.40pm \$324.25	
close \$326.00-\$325.50	(£272.50-273)
New York \$324.80	
Comex (latest)	

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Peak Hldgs	23 +3
High Point	265 +30
S. Simpson	280 +25
Inter-City Inv	32 +3
Ass Brit Inv	11 1/2 +1
Harold Ingram	125 +10
Equity Law	265 +19
Rockware	28 +2
McCarthy	230 +16 1/2
Westpool Inv Tr	72 +5
Energy Fin	32 +2
VW Thermax	18 +8
Botswana	15 +1
FALLS:	
CPFI Computers	67 -21
Cammermoor	11 -75
Parkalen	700 -100
Accom Computers	67 -8
OK Bazzars	625 -80
Zygal	45 -5
Castle (GB)	30 -3
Fobel Int	10 -1
Jas Ferguson	10 -1
Dawick Grp	20 -2
Greycoat	192 -6
Metal Sciences	12 -1

### CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.1900 (-0.0095)	
DM: \$3.6935 (-0.0080)	
Sfr: \$3.0455 (-0.0175)	
FF: \$11.3225 (-0.0280)	
Yen: 294.50 (-1.0)	
Index: 74.3 (-0.2)	

### INTEREST RATES

York:	
1900	
M 3 1047	
ex. 143.1 (+0.3)	
<hr/>	
<b>INTEREST RATE</b>	
<hr/>	
Base 9% - 9½	
3-month Interbank 9¼% - 9½	
6-month eligible bills 9½% - 9¾	
12-month rate	
<hr/>	
Prime Rate 11 25 - 11.50	
Real Funds 8½	
3-month Treasury Bills 8 25 - 9	
6-month 10½% - 10¾	
12-month 10¾% - 11	



## Trading only moderate

1984				
High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge
100	100	100	100	100

TICKER	Yld Div P/E	1984		
		High	Low	Close
AMT	4.00	100	90	95
AVY	3.00	100	90	95
BAC	3.00	100	90	95
BEL	3.00	100	90	95
BID	3.00	100	90	95
BIO	3.00	100	90	95
BIZ	3.00	100	90	95
BOK	3.00	100	90	95
BRE	3.00	100	90	95
BRO	3.00	100	90	95
BUS	3.00	100	90	95
BUT	3.00	100	90	95
BVA	3.00	100	90	95
BWA	3.00	100	90	95
BZ	3.00	100	90	95
BZK	3.00	100	90	95
BZM	3.00	100	90	95
BZP	3.00	100	90	95
BZS	3.00	100	90	95
BZT	3.00	100	90	95
BZU	3.00	100	90	95
BZV	3.00	100	90	95
BZW	3.00	100	90	95
BZC	3.00	100	90	95
BZD	3.00	100	90	95
BZE	3.00	100	90	95
BZF	3.00	100	90	95
BZG	3.00	100	90	95
BZH	3.00	100	90	95
BZI	3.00	100	90	95
BZJ	3.00	100	90	95
BZK	3.00	100	90	95
BZL	3.00	100	90	95
BZM	3.00	100	90	95
BZN	3.00	100	90	95
BZO	3.00	100	90	95
BZP	3.00	100	90	95
BZQ	3.00	100	90	95
BZR	3.00	100	90	95
BZS	3.00	100	90	95
BZT	3.00	100	90	95
BZU	3.00	100	90	95
BZV	3.00	100	90	95
BZW	3.00	100	90	95
BZC	3.00	100	90	95
BZD	3.00	100	90	95
BZE	3.00	100	90	95
BZF	3.00	100	90	95
BZG	3.00	100	90	95
BZH	3.00	100	90	95
BZI	3.00	100	90	95
BZJ	3.00	100	90	95
BZK	3.00	100	90	95
BZL	3.00	100	90	95
BZM	3.00	100	90	95
BZN	3.00	100	90	95
BZO	3.00	100	90	95
BZP	3.00	100	90	95
BZQ	3.00	100	90	95
BZR	3.00	100	90	95
BZS	3.00	100	90	95
BZT	3.00	100	90	95
BZU	3.00	100	90	95
BZV	3.00	100	90	95
BZW	3.00	100	90	95
BZC	3.00	100	90	95
BZD	3.00	100	90	95
BZE	3.00	100	90	95
BZF	3.00	100	90	95
BZG	3.00	100	90	95
BZH	3.00	100	90	95
BZI	3.00	100	90	95
BZJ	3.00	100	90	95
BZK	3.00	100	90	95
BZL	3.00	100	90	95
BZM	3.00	100	90	95
BZN	3.00	100	90	95
BZO	3.00	100	90	95
BZP	3.00	100	90	95
BZQ	3.00	100	90	95
BZR	3.00	100	90	

Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div Yld %	P/E	High
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Low Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div Yr pence %
...	...	...	...

[illegible]

AND FORWARD RATES

[illegible]

160	119	Aberdeen	155	•	..
86	60	Alton	86		.

111	581	Anger	1111	—
112	582	Anger	1112	—
113	583	Anger	1113	—
114	584	Anger	1114	—
115	585	Anger	1115	—
116	586	Anger	1116	—
117	587	Anger	1117	—
118	588	Anger	1118	—
119	589	Anger	1119	—
120	590	Anger	1120	—
121	591	Anger	1121	—
122	592	Anger	1122	—
123	593	Anger	1123	—
124	594	Anger	1124	—
125	595	Anger	1125	—
126	596	Anger	1126	—
127	597	Anger	1127	—
128	598	Anger	1128	—
129	599	Anger	1129	—
130	600	Anger	1130	—
131	601	Anger	1131	—
132	602	Anger	1132	—
133	603	Anger	1133	—
134	604	Anger	1134	—
135	605	Anger	1135	—
136	606	Anger	1136	—
137	607	Anger	1137	—
138	608	Anger	1138	—
139	609	Anger	1139	—
140	610	Anger	1140	—
141	611	Anger	1141	—
142	612	Anger	1142	—
143	613	Anger	1143	—
144	614	Anger	1144	—
145	615	Anger	1145	—
146	616	Anger	1146	—
147	617	Anger	1147	—
148	618	Anger	1148	—
149	619	Anger	1149	—
150	620	Anger	1150	—
151	621	Anger	1151	—
152	622	Anger	1152	—
153	623	Anger	1153	—
154	624	Anger	1154	—
155	625	Anger	1155	—
156	626	Anger	1156	—
157	627	Anger	1157	—
158	628	Anger	1158	—
159	629	Anger	1159	—
160	630	Anger	1160	—
161	631	Anger	1161	—
162	632	Anger	1162	—
163	633	Anger	1163	—
164	634	Anger	1164	—
165	635	Anger	1165	—
166	636	Anger	1166	—
167	637	Anger	1167	—
168	638	Anger	1168	—
169	639	Anger	1169	—
170	640	Anger	1170	—
171	641	Anger	1171	—
172	642	Anger	1172	—
173	643	Anger	1173	—
174	644	Anger	1174	—
175	645	Anger	1175	—
176	646	Anger	1176	—
177	647	Anger	1177	—
178	648	Anger	1178	—
179	649	Anger	1179	—
180	650	Anger	1180	—
181	651	Anger	1181	—
182	652	Anger	1182	—
183	653	Anger	1183	—
184	654	Anger	1184	—
185	655	Anger	1185	—
186	656	Anger	1186	—
187	657	Anger	1187	—
188	658	Anger	1188	—
189	659	Anger	1189	—
190	660	Anger	1190	—
191	661	Anger	1191	—
192	662	Anger	1192	—
193	663	Anger	1193	—
194	664	Anger	1194	—
195	665	Anger	1195	—
196	666	Anger	1196	—
197	667	Anger	1197	—
198	668	Anger	1198	—
199	669	Anger	1199	—
200	670	Anger	1200	—
201	671	Anger	1201	—
202	672	Anger	1202	—
203	673	Anger	1203	—
204	674	Anger	1204	—
205	675	Anger	1205	—
206	676	Anger	1206	—
207	677	Anger	1207	—
208	678	Anger	1208	—
209	679	Anger	1209	—
210	680	Anger	1210	—
211	681	Anger	1211	—
212	682	Anger	1212	—
213	683	Anger	1213	—
214	684	Anger	1214	—
215	685	Anger	1215	—
216	686	Anger	1216	—
217	687	Anger	1217	—
218	688	Anger	1218	—
219	689	Anger	1219	—
220	690	Anger	1220	—
221	691	Anger	1221	—
222	692	Anger	1222	—
223	693	Anger	1223	—
224	694	Anger	1224	—
225	695	Anger	1225	—
226	696	Anger	1226	—
227	697	Anger	1227	—
228	698	Anger	1228	—
229	699	Anger	1229	—
230	700	Anger	1230	—
231	701	Anger	1231	—
232	702	Anger	1232	—
233	703	Anger	1233	—
234	704	Anger	1234	—
235	705	Anger	1235	—
236	706	Anger	1236	—
237	707	Anger	1237	—
238	708	Anger	1238	—
239	709	Anger	1239	—
240	710	Anger	1240	—
241	711	Anger	1241	—
242	712	Anger	1242	—
243	713	Anger	1243	—
244	714	Anger	1244	—
245	715	Anger	1245	—
246	716	Anger	1246	—
247	717	Anger	1247	—
248	718	Anger	1248	—
249	719	Anger	1249	—
250	720	Anger	1250	—
251	721	Anger	1251	—
252	722	Anger	1252	—
253	723	Anger	1253	—
254	724	Anger	1254	—
255	725	Anger	1255	—
256	726	Anger	1256	—
257	727	Anger	1257	—
258	728	Anger	1258	—
259	729	Anger	1259	—
260	730	Anger	1260	—
261	731	Anger	1261	—
262	732	Anger	1262	—
263	733	Anger	1263	—
264	734	Anger	1264	—
265	735	Anger	1265	—
266	736	Anger	1266	—
267	737	Anger	1267	—
268	738	Anger	1268	—
269	739	Anger	1269	—
270	740	Anger	1270	—
271	741	Anger	1271	—
272	742	Anger	1272	—
273	743	Anger	1273	—
274	744	Anger	1274	—
275	745	Anger	1275	—
276	746	Anger	1276	—
277	747	Anger	1277	—
278	748	Anger	1278	—
279	749	Anger	1279	—
280	750	Anger	1280	—
281	751	Anger	1281	—
282	752	Anger	1282	—
283	753	Anger	1283	—
284	754	Anger	1284	—
285	755	Anger	1285	—
286	756	Anger	1286	—
287	757	Anger	1287	—
288	758	Anger	1288	—
289	759	Anger	1289	—
290	760	Anger	1290	—
291	761	Anger	1291	—
292	762	Anger	1292	—
293	763	Anger	1293	—
294	764	Anger	1294	—
295	765	Anger	1295	—
296	766	Anger	1296	—
297	767	Anger	1297	—
298	768	Anger	1298	—
299	769	Anger	1299	—
300	770	Anger	1300	—
301	771	Anger	1301	—
302	772	Anger	1302	—
303	773	Anger	1303	—
304	774	Anger	1304	—
305	775	Anger	1305	—
306	776	Anger	1306	—
307	777	Anger	1307	—
308	778	Anger	1308	—
309	779	Anger	1309	—
310	780	Anger	1310	—
311	781	Anger	1311	—
312	782	Anger	1312	—
313	783	Anger	1313	—
314	784	Anger	1314	—
315	785	Anger	1315	—
316	786	Anger	1316	—
317	787	Anger	1317	—
318	788	Anger	1318	—
319	789	Anger	1319	—
320	790	Anger	1320	—
321	791	Anger	1321	—
322	792	Anger	1322	—
323	793	Anger	1323	—
324	794	Anger	1324	—
325	795	Anger	1325	—
326	796	Anger	1326	—
327	797	Anger	1327	—
328	798	Anger	1328	—
329	799	Anger	1329	—
330	800	Anger	1330	—
331	801	Anger	1331	—
332	802	Anger	1332	—
333	803	Anger	1333	—
334	804	Anger	1334	—
335	805	Anger	1335	—
336	806	Anger	1336	—
337	807	Anger	1337	—
338	808	Anger	1338	—
339	809	Anger	1339	—
340	810	Anger	1340	—
341	811	Anger	1341	—
342	812	Anger	1342	—
343	813	Anger	1343	—
344	814	Anger	1344	—
345	815	Anger	1345	—
346	816	Anger	1346	—
347	817	Anger	1347	—
348	818	Anger	1348	—
349	819	Anger	1349	—
350	820	Anger	1350	—
351	821	Anger	1351	—
352	822	Anger	1352	—
353	823	Anger	1353	—
354	824	Anger	1354	—
355	825	Anger	1355	—
356	826	Anger	1356	—
357	827	Anger	1357	—
358	828	Anger	1358	—
359	829	Anger	1359	—
360	830	Anger	1360	—
361	831	Anger	1361	—
362	832	Anger	1362	—
363	833	Anger	1363	—
364	834	Anger	1364	—
365	835	Anger	1365	—
366	836	Anger	1366	—
367	837	Anger	1367	—
368	838	Anger	1368	—
369	839	Anger	1369	—
370	840	Anger	1370	—
371	841	Anger	1371	—
372	842	Anger	1372	—
373	843	Anger	1373	—
374	844	Anger	1374	—
375	845	Anger	1375	—
376	846	Anger	1376	—
377	847	Anger	1377	—
378	848	Anger	1378	—
379	849	Anger	1379	—
380	850	Anger	1380	—
381	851	Anger	1381	—
382	852	Anger	1382	—
383	853	Anger	1383	—
384	854	Anger	1384	—
385	855	Anger	1385	—
386	856	Anger	1386	—
387	857	Anger	1387	—
388	858	Anger	1388	—
389	859	Anger	1389	—
390	860	Anger	1390	—
391	861	Anger	1391	—
392	862	Anger	1392	—
393	863	Anger	1393	—
394	864	Anger	1394	—
395	865	Anger	1395	—
396	866	Anger	1396	—
397	867	Anger	1397	—
398	868	Anger	1398	—
399	869	Anger	1399	—
400	870	Anger	1400	—
401	871	Anger	1401	—
402	872	Anger	1402	—
403	873	Anger	1403	—
404	874	Anger	1404	—
405	875	Anger	1405	

75	Tr Australia	91	•	..	2.5	1
69	Tr City Of Los Ang	78	•	..	4.4	5

[illegible]

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[illegible]**THORIZED UNIT TRUST**

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**● BR. BUILDING & APPLIANCES**-Half-year to Sept. 30, 1986. Div. 1.35p (1.25p). R £2000. T/Gover. 7,762 (5,031). Earnings per share, 6.52p (8.9). Earnings per share, 6.52p (8.9). The uncertainty in the industry continued. Trading has not been buoyant as anticipated and it reflected in the results for the year.

**● UNITED SCIENTIFIC HOLDINGS** Year to Sept. 30, Financial 3.5p (3p), mkg. 5.5p (5p). R £1000. T/Gover. 7,762 (5,031). Earnings per share, 6.52p (8.9). The uncertainty in the industry continued. Trading has not been buoyant as anticipated and it reflected in the results for the year.

**● FULLER, SMITH AND TURNER**, brewery, is lifting its interim payment for the half-year to Sept. 28 from 2 to 2.4 p per Figs. in £900. T over 17.5m. O/S 74.7. Operating 15,732. (13,897). Final profit, 1,725 (£1,477). Net income less charges 60 (£40) Before tax, 1,785 (£1,517). The second half has begun well and the board looks forward to reporting improved results for the full year.

**● TRAFALGAR HOUSE**: In annual report of Trafalgar H the property, construction, ship and energy group. Sir Bruce Dinning says there are no present signs that the real depression of the past four or five years is to be followed by any recovery.

The construction market in Britain is arduous and shows signs of improving in the former sign of improvement in the shipping and energy sectors. The prospect of ordering additional cargo tonnage in a market remains gloomy. A decision to take a demerit evaluation of the engineering of the QE2 was soon. The QE2 has now 15 years and new propulsion plant will halve fuel costs and extend ship's lifespan by another 20 years. Mr Eric Parker, who became managing director in November, had a near-20 per cent salary rise to £135,000 last year.

**● F. & C. EUROTRUST** is to about £4.85 million, after expenses by way of a rights issue of 500,000 shares at 95p each, to be paid in 1995 at par on the basis nominal for every three ordinary shares of 25p each held. A 40 of £300 of stock will be converted into 80 ordinary shares which equivalent to the value of the 120 of £300 of stock. The shares have been underwritten by Curzon & Co.

**● THORPAC GROUP**: Half to Sept. 30, Inc. 1.0p (name). R £2000. T/Gover. 7,762 (5,031). Earnings per share, 6.52p (8.9). The uncertainty in the industry continued. Trading has not been buoyant as anticipated and it reflected in the results for the year.

The sales of freezer packaging accessories. Since September sales have continued to be buoyant and the directors are optimistic about the outlook for the next half.

per anni 1990-1999: 1990-1994: 1995-1999:

final dividend, possibly to increase only marginally less than 1.4 times. But the focus is sustainable sales gain of just 1 per cent, about £10 million, provided, notably, with vital changes. According to RHP, the two-by figure comprises static volumes but takes in a deliberate drive away from the old low margin-high volume business in the direction of higher margin activities. Here RHP can exploit its high-technology background, and demand better prices.

Here RHP's capacity cuts add up to a lower breakeven point implying in turn that the amount of overhead is written off over a longer, more reasonable period, and really is a price for better earnings.

At RHP the shares have outperformed the market by

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## Record in

### Turnover

### Pre-tax p

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Whitcroft made the high trading results, development and profit by 23%, and dex consolidation.

An interim dividend than last year, with the continuing significant improvement.

Mr. John Tavaré

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Textiles, build

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## TEMPUS

## Unigate figures lack lustre

Unigate's profit and loss account which glittered so brightly when full year figures were announced in July is looking in need of a little polish. Yesterday's interim pretax profits of £25.9 million were up by 10 per cent but still gave the appearance of being dull.

To be fair to the company's management, which has made great efforts to smarten Unigate's appearance and performance, the problems were not of its own making. As with Northern Foods, which reported the day before, the main difficulties came from pigs and milk.

High pig prices and stiff competition in the meat activities and Unigate estimated that the three month delay in putting through the 1p increase on a pint of milk cost £1.6 million.

Unigate's dairy product range and its marketing thrust will allow it to take advantage of the trend towards low fat dairy products and the purchase of J P Wood, the poultry company, could prove to be timely and profitable.

However, the group is still struggling to reduce its borrowings. There will be little fall at the year end and there is just a hint that working capital is threatening to get out of hand again.

The implications of this are not lost on Unigate's management, and the much tighter financial controls now in place should ensure that a tight rein is maintained. The group has a solid foundation in its core businesses and while spectacular growth might not be the order of the day, the basic corporate strategy should lead to steady improvement.

The shares were down 5p to 151p but will not excite until the group's earnings potential materializes.

**RHP**  
RHP's struggle to survive in the 1980s has included a capital reconstruction, factory closures, slashed dividends, redundancies, a drive on costs, and all the other techniques of modernization which ought to have been applied in the industry over the past century. A tenfold improvement in pretax profits to £6.2 million, accompanied by news of a sharp reduction in debt and a 133 per cent improvement in the final dividend, points to a comeback only marginally less spectacular than Lazarus'. But is the recovery sustainable?

A sales gain of just 3 per cent to about £106 million provides investors with vital clues. According to RHP, the turnover figure comprises static volumes, but takes in a deliberate drive away from the old low margin-high volume business in the direction of better margin activities. Here RHP can exploit its high technology background, and command better prices.

Hence RHP's capacity cuts add up to a lower breakeven point, implying in turn that the improved orderbook is written at sensible tariffs and really is a proxy for better earnings.

At 82p, the shares have outperformed the market by

105 per cent in the last year. Investors ought to climb aboard. In 1980, RHP was making £10 million pretax.

## Smith Brothers

Wounds of playing the international securities game appear separately for the first time on the half-year profit and loss account of Smith Brothers, the market's third largest stockbroker.

Losses here for the six months to October 26 grew from £291,000 to £1.3 million. Smith is a big player in the gold share market and few have had a good time this year. Smith's losses are accounted for by start-up costs of the new international dealership Smith New Court, where N M Rothschild has a 49 per cent stake.

The bank holds 29.9 per cent of the Stock Exchange firm. Mr Tony Lewis, Smith's chairman, admits its name and financial results have been a disaster. Profits made since the floor of the Lons Stock Exchange, both in stocks and traded options, boomed from just over £1 million to £3.15 million.

At the pretax level profits increased 123 per cent to £1,789 million. Mr Lewis is positive about the second-half, which is barely a month old. As a sign of confidence the dividend is lifted 50 per cent to 1.5p.

## AE

The stock market's reaction to full-year figures from AE, the motor components manufacturer, showing pretax profits had leapt from £400,000 to £17.3 million, was one of mild disappointment and the shares closed 1p lower at 107p. This was mean even if AE's splendid recovery was well anticipated.

The group has rarely been in such good shape and things can only get better by the look of it. The motor components market as a whole was down last year but helped by booming exports and significant further penetration of the home market, sales by the British-based companies rose 14 per cent in volume. AE was especially successful in taking market share from its old bid adversary, Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds.

Growth by the overseas companies was more pedestrian but even so, when added to the export performance, more than half of AE's sales were outside Britain last year.

Despite much higher capital expenditure and the costs of servicing the big upturn in volume, there was a cash inflow into the group last year of £6.5 million after taking account of the £15 million the group made on the disposal of Edmunds Walker, its distribution network. This enabled AE to cut its gearing level from 100 per cent to 60 per cent.

The group disposed of its last big remaining problem area when it sold Walker in August and though South Africa remains troublesome, the group looks easily capable of achieving a £25 million profit this year. At 107p the shares yield 5.7 per cent.

## Americans go for Whitbread

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

American investors have suddenly acquired the taste for the Whitbread brewing group. In active trading yesterday the shares jumped 7p to 214p, their highest level.

The Whitbread buying spree was accompanied by suggestions that the group is about to extend its already significant interest in the American wines and spirits industry.

Two months ago, Whitbread splashed out £91 million for the Buckingham Corporation which

the group's 55 per cent jump in annual profits, and is looking kindly on the gradual change in its earnings profile. API is making a switch away from its traditional paper making business into new products and growth areas.

A line of 375,000 API shares was put through the market yesterday without damaging the new trading peak for the price.

Powell Duffryn received a boost from takeover talk. Hanson Trust is said to be interested in making a bid for Powell, as well as for a few others on the London lists, and the Powell share price rose 10p to 336p.

Metal Box, another share apparently on the Hanson shopping list, gained 4p more to 382p.

Hanson Trust itself slipped back 4p to 289p. But this is also a traditional time of year for investment managers to switch out of Hanson and seek price performance elsewhere.

BTR usually benefits from the move away from Hanson, and there were signs of that. The BTR price gained 15p to 559p. City men are also looking forward to the BTR year-end in two weeks' time, and analysts are getting their figures ready for pre-announcement circulars.

Turner & Newall stayed on the list of market favourites, rising 5p to 111p after a recent meeting with analysts and improved profit forecasts from certain stockbroking firms.

Moroccan Holdings, the fire protection specialists, burst into life with a 13p rise to 173p, a new peak for the shares. The company got a mention in a City newsletter and is due to report full-year figures soon.

The market confidently expects the group to beat the £1.2 million profit forecast made at

the time of its stock market debut in February. Newcomer Penny & Giles began USM market life at a price of 158p, comfortably up on the 130p placing price. The company, which makes high technology measurement and control equipment, had 23.5 per cent of its shares placed through Quilley Goodison, the stockbroker.

Canover Investments, the management buy-out and risk equity specialist, gained a price of 178p on its first day, against a placing price of 160p a share.

Oil was fairly steady behind falling crude prices. British Oil was again influenced by takeover suggestions, equalling its share peak at 225p.

Imperial Chemical Industries jumped 18p to 688p, just below its peak. The shares were helped by American buying, the encouraging tone at a pharmaceutical seminar and the takeover.

A chat with Simon & Coates, the stockbroker, has done Meggin Holdings a world of good. The company met the broker this week, and yesterday the share price rose 6p to 60p. Simon & Coates believe that Meggin, under the direction of Mr Ken Coates and Mr Nigel McCormick, has a bright future.

The two directors bought into the machine tool group just over a year ago, having made their names in the successful build-up of Flight Refuelling.

over of the chemical operations of the US Beatrice group. Vaux Breweries held at 242p after its profits and share placing. Management Agency and Music continued to respond to the share interest taken by Chrystals. At one time, the shares reached 160p

handles, among other brands, Cutty Sark Scotch whisky in the US. In 1982, it paid £56 million for another US drinks distributor, Julius Wile.

The brewing group could be thinking of yet another US buy, or it may be negotiating to distribute other brands through its now-extensive US network.

Whitbread's shares have performed strongly this year but the current brewing favourite is Bass, which has jumped from 300p to 453p. These two have outpaced the rest of the industry, particularly the regional ones which have lagged a long way behind.

Of the national breweries, Whitbread is the only one with a two-tier voting structure and it is still effectively controlled by the Whitbread family through its high voting B shares.

The Whitbread Investment Co, which is 49 per cent owned by the brewery, has about 28 per cent of Whitbread's votes.

Shares strengthened after a weak start. At the close, the FT 30-share index registered a 5.3-point gain to 927.6. The FT SE share index rose 6 points to 1,196.7.

Once again British Telecom ruled sentiment. The price touched a new 98 1/2 peak before easing to 98p. The flow of small selling persisted but was easily absorbed by institutional buying. Early trading was influenced by some weighty American selling but again there was no shortage of institutional shareholders keen to pick up the stock.

Insurance shares enjoyed a knee-jerk upsurge on the suspension of Hambro Life Assurance. But many of the gains quickly evaporated. Prudential, at one time 27p up at 525p, finished at 505p. Pearl suffered a similar experience. Sea Life went from 724p to 757p before relapsing to 739p.

Buyers were sniffing around House of Fraser shares again yesterday, helping the price gain 8p to 312p. Market men's thoughts immediately turned to Lorrho, in case the latter had come back for more of the Harrods store group, but a spokesman for Lorrho would make no comment.

Lorrho sold a 29.9 per cent stake in House of Fraser early last month, but within a few weeks was back with a newly-purchased 6.3 per cent holding.

Buyers were also in the ascendency at Associated Paper Industries as the shares rose 8p to 194p. The market enjoyed

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before closing unchanged at 154p.

The profit fell out 11p from the Canvermoor soft drinks group at 75p while CPU Computers fell 21p to 67p on the break-even annual meeting statement. Eeven came in for mid-morning attention, jumping 3p to 66p on, it was thought, US interest.

Gilts were a weak market and by the close long-dated stocks had fallen by as much as a point. Sellers were influenced by the weakness of sterling against the dollar.

US bonds were also tired, after poor US retail sales figures, despite cuts in American broker loan rates, and Wall Street sentiment badly needs the encouragement of good money supply figures. In London, however, index-linked stocks outperformed conventional gilts, closing about a quarter up, after profit taking, after favourable comment in The Times.

Ratners, the jewellery retail chain, pushed close to its best trading level, rising 2p to 53p. Yesterday saw the shareholders' meeting to confirm the company's takeover of Terry's, a chain of 26 shops, and the share price rose marked City enthusiasm for the purchase.

Ratners is also in the midst of its best selling season, Christmas, although the benefits will not be apparent in the half-year figures due in January.

The end of Mr Robert Maxwell's bid for John Waddington left the Monopoly group's shares 27p down at 475p. United Scientific rose 13p to 218p as profits emerged above worst estimates.

## ADVERTISEMENT

## TECHINVEST

is a monthly investment newsletter concentrating on capital growth opportunities in the exciting and fast-moving electronics, communications and computer industries. In our current issue we introduce the latest US investment key, the Sales to Price ratio. Our main feature profiles a company delivering more of a unique new product in November and December than its entire sales last year. We also analyse Volex and Immediate Business Systems, and comment on ACT, Brikat, ST, CASE, Compost, DDT, FKI, Helix, Imtec, Plessey, Tadpole and Telecomputing. For a FREE sample copy and subscription details, send name and address (block capitals please) to: TECHINVEST (172), Hill House, Millbrook, Nias, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

## Arthur Lee &amp; Sons plc

Manufacturers and Distributors of Bright Steel Bar, Strip, Wire, Wire Rope and Injection Moulded Plastics

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS TO 30th SEPTEMBER 1984

	1984 £000's	1983 £000's
Turnover	64,738	56,318
Profit/(Loss) before taxation and extraordinary items	1,526	(571)
Profit/(Loss) after taxation and extraordinary items	868	(524)
Earnings/(Loss) per share	3.18p	(2.11p)
Dividend for year per share	1.20p	0.6p

- \* Turnover for year increased by 15%.
- \* Profit for half-year to 30th September highest for the past five years.
- \* Rationalisation measures undertaken in steel strip, wire and bar production bearing fruit.
- \* Injection moulded plastic products strengthen Group's established product range.
- \* Annual dividend doubled.

## Eight consecutive years of increased profit.

## Results for the year to 30 September:-

	1984 £m	1983 £m	Increase %
Sales	122	111	10
Profits before tax	8.1	7.3	11
Dividends per share	5.40p	4.92p	10

## Highlights from the Chairman's Statement:-

- \* Progress in all geographic areas
- \* Establishment of a substantial publication and magazine business
- \* Continued investment in new technology
- \* High quality of operating management
- \* Current order books at record levels

A copy of the full report and accounts will be available from the Company Secretary, McCORQUODALE PLC, McCORQUODALE House, 15 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0HT.

## MCCORQUODALE

International Specialist Printers

## RHP Group plc

## Preliminary Results for the 52 weeks ended 28 September 1984

- Sustained Progress
- Substantial Profit Improvement
- Improved Margins
- Further £7m Cash Inflow
- Order Books Strengthened
- Increased Dividend

	1984		1983	
	1st Half (Unaudited)	2nd Half (Unaudited)	Year (Unaudited)	Year (Unaudited)
Sales	53,458	52,247	105,705	102,379
Operating profit	3,050	5,170	8,220	3,481
Exceptional items	(127)	(481)	(608)	(343)
Profit before interest	2,923	4,689	7,612	3,138
Interest	(817)	(562)	(1,379)	(2,478)
Profit before tax	2,106	4,127	6,233	660

RHP Group plc is a British precision engineering group which manufactures ball and roller bearings and a specialised range of fasteners for the automotive, engineering and aerospace industries, and electro-mechanical and electronic products for control and automation applications in a wide range of industries.

The company has subsidiaries in Australia, Canada, France, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA, and authorised distributors throughout the rest of the world.

Copies of the full Report and Accounts are available from: RHP Group plc, PO Box 20, Pilgrim House, High Street, Billerica, Essex CM12 9XY.

Whitecroft  
Record interim profit of £3.8m

	1984 £	1983 £
Turnover	51.3m	43.7m
Pre-tax profit	3.8m	2.7m
Dividend	2.3p	2p

Whitecroft made an excellent start to the year with profit before taxation the highest ever achieved for a six month period. The trading results include a profit of £1 million from property development and the other divisions of the group increased total profit by 23%, more than offsetting the effect of businesses sold and deconsolidated.

An interim dividend of 2.30p per ordinary share, 15% higher than last year, will be paid.

With the continuing development of the group, we expect a significant improvement in profit for the year as a whole.

Mr. John Tavaré - chairman

## Whitecroft plc

Textiles, building supplies, lighting, property development

A copy of the interim report may be obtained from:

The Secretary, Whitecroft plc, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5BX  
Telephone: 0625 524677

## Further diversification

reports Paul Nicholson, the chairman

Our policy of diversification has continued to pay off and we have recently announced the purchase of 65 fully stocked off-licences at a cost of £3.3m and two public houses in London at a cost of £1.2m.

Pre-tax profits for the year to 29 September 1984 at £13.03 million - up £957,000 - continue the unbroken trend since 1988.

A final dividend of 6.655p per share net makes a total for the year of 10.055p - an increase of almost 11% over last year.

While beer profits did not reach last year's levels partly because of the miners' strike, hotel profits and wines and spirits profits are well ahead and now account for 42% of the total.

Developments during the year include a franchise agreement to brew Tuborg lager and major alterations in 47 existing pubs and the acquisition of 4 pubs, 35 off-licences and the 210 bedroom St. John's Hotel, Solihull.

Sales and profits have started well in the current year.

We plan to dispose of Fred Koch brewery, New York State, and have included as an extraordinary item £0.8 million as the possible loss occurring on disposal.

To reflect the change in the emphasis of the company's activities, we are proposing to shareholders to change our name to "Vaux Group plc", of which the principal divisions will be Vaux Breweries, Wards and Darleys Breweries, Swallow-Hotels and James Bell wines and spirits.

Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available after 21 December 1984 from The Secretary, The Brewery, Sunderland SR1 3AN.





# Venture capital: the neat breakthrough

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Walter Wriston talks to Peter Wilson-Smith

# Master of change welcomes City's 'inevitable' revolution

If you were to look at the London market five years from now, it will be a mosaic. There will be some big hitters, there will be some boutiques, and there will be some guys on the margin. The big players will be the ones that can make the cultural change. If they can not do that, why then, they won't be players.

Adapting to change is a recurring theme in the Walter Wriston philosophy. It is one of the reasons, he believes, that Citicorp, from which he retired as chairman and chief executive in September, is where it is today and is one of only four companies listed on the New York stock market which has paid a dividend every year since 1812.

In the Wriston scale of things, the changes now afoot in London's securities industry are nothing less than inevitable. Full of praise for the attitude of the United Kingdom authorities and the Bank of England whose liberal approach allowed the Euromarkets to take root in London, he argues that the barriers between the free international market in London and the protected domestic market are now disappearing.

"I couldn't say strongly enough the global market place has moved from rhetoric to reality. It has to be built into your thinking and your corporate plan. The marriage of telecommunications and computers has really created something new under the sun. It is not a difference of degree, it is a difference of kind and therefore it is as revolutionary in my humble opinion as the invention of the steam engine or the automobile. I think we are just beginning to peer through the glass darkly. What it means is

basically there is no place to hide. "There is no separation any more between domestic and foreign markets. Communications being what they are, the global market would bring pressure on the London market to be more competitive on rates."

He sees London's fixed commissions as an anomaly which does not exist in the other big markets and stresses that the global market means that people have the option of trading shares anywhere. Technology has made that possible and has also dramatically altered the timescale in which financial transactions are undertaken. Mr Wriston recalls the time when Citibank had two board meetings and put out a thick prospectus just to raise \$100m. But communications and such innovation as self-registrations have changed all that.

"It is a matter of almost total indifference to our chief financial officer whether he raises five-year \$200 million in London or New York or any other good place. That was not true as recently as five years ago. And you have this extraordinary thing of windows opening or closing in 20 minutes."

Mr Wriston believes that the changes under way in London involving moving from fixed to negotiated commissions in the securities industry may have



Walter Wriston: there is no place to hide

similar consequences to those that ensued in New York in the 1970s. Indeed the changes may be rather more traumatic in London because of the present separation between jobbers and brokers in London.

"In the United States there were a lot of casualties. People with high fixed overheads were casualties, people who were not quick on their feet, who had built a cost structure based on fixed commissions," he says. He sees a shake-out of this kind as one of the consequences of suddenly removing the protection from any industry which has been accustomed to operating in a protected market.

So who will succeed in the new environment? Will it be those clearing banks which are welding together their own investment banking and securities trading arms? Will it be the groupings being formed around merchant banks or somebody else?

Mr Wriston has no doubt that Citicorp will be a key player. It is saying two significant things. Stockbrokers, Vickers de Costa and Scrivenor, Kemp-Gee which are merging next year, to form part of its global investment banking arm.

As for the others, Mr Wriston says: "Clearly the people that have a culture, experience and track record in capital raising have a head start; there is no question about that. Those are probably merchant banking types. People who have just been brokers, who adjust from a fixed commission to a free market without experience in the other sides of it, if there are such people, will, I suppose, have the worst of the lot."

He does not believe that sheer size alone will be the key to success and cites the example of Goldman Sachs in New York: "It is not the largest firm on the block but it is extremely able and extremely profitable and makes very good business."

Big is not necessarily beautiful but smart is", Mr Wriston says. However, Mr Wriston does not for a moment write-off the clearing banks as important participants. They will probably be major players in this area too but he stresses that they will have to adjust to the culture shock.

Citicorp's own experience in adapting itself to cope with conflicting cultures is instructive. Under Mr Wriston an investment banking group has been built up by welding mergers and acquisitions and then venture capital on to a large and international bond trading operation. Today, its investment bank ranks number one in the worldwide interest sales market, is among the top three dealers in US government securities and is one of the largest venture capital companies in the world.

To accommodate the cultural clashes, the merchant banking side was split five years ago in the same way that consumer banking had previously been separated from corporate banking. Today Citicorp embraces three separate businesses, individual, institutional and investment banking and there are two emerging embryos - insurance and information.

The structure is considered very much one of Mr Wriston's

**We are beginning to peer through the glass darkly**

legacies and insiders admit has sometimes been a painful but necessary process to allow the differing activities to develop to the full.

To what extent the clearing banks follow such a radical path remains to be seen. But Mr Wriston has no doubt that it is a problem, which has to be tackled. "It is not as easy as the books at business school tell you it is, because they are all human beings involved."

However, Mr Wriston seems to feel that London still has plenty going for it as a financial centre. As for the British and their ability to adapt to change, he says: "I think the clearing banks were pioneers in global market-places in many respects in that they attracted to this island the Euromarket because the world had confidence that their funds would not be stolen, taxed away, frozen or whatever and to that extent I suppose they were the first people who understood it."

Brum-Brum as the second city hits the pedal on the road to glamour



Birmingham's recent sight and sound of things to come; spinning the grand prix wheels in the hub of England

## The Monaco of the Midlands

Simon Barnes

Into the Pershore Street left-handers, face grim beneath their visors... through the fast excitement of Bromsgrove Street... on past the mosque in a two-masted barge... on round into the magnificent vista of Bristol Street... can you handle that much torque? Who could ever deny that Birmingham is the most exciting city in the world?

Yes, the Birmingham motor racing grand prix is flying high in a howling gale of local enthusiasm and the would-be organizers are talking excitedly about holding motor racing in the very streets of Birmingham in the summer of 1986. "All they now need is parliamentary approval," a Bill was deposited in the House of Commons from a car driven by Sir John Mason at the end of November, and if all goes according to the hopes of its backers, will get royal assent by next July. The leader of the Birmingham City Council, Dick Knowles ("Sit down, buster"), estimates the chances at 70-30 in favour.

And they are awfully, tub-thumping and patriotically serious about the whole motor race notion over at the Birmingham Council House. So

much so that the party political guerrillas of council corridors have established a trust on the issue: they voted 90 in favour and 13 against taking the scheme to parliament. Parliament must give the nod before the streets can be closed off for the event.

"A motor race will put over the true image of Birmingham to the world," declared Councillor Knowles, bubbling over with joy at the thought of the television cameras of the world pointing at the green trees and high rise blocks of the city. "Second city? I reckon Birmingham is the first city."

It is generally accepted that Birmingham is the most boring place in England. If not the world, lacking both northern character and southern glitter, Birmingham people disagree but the image didn't matter too much when Birmingham was simply a manufacturing centre. But with the decline of manufacturing industries Birmingham has been promoting itself as the place for tourism, conventions and exhibitions no matter what else is true about Birmingham. It is dead easy to get to Birmingham stages the Motor Show, Tourism, for what they call the Heart of England area was worth £35 million in 1983.

"What Birmingham lacks," said Marjorie Brown (tellingly, "is an Eiffel Tower"). The chairman of the council's general purposes committee went on to elaborate: she meant a symbol, a knee-jerk image. The knee-jerk notion is, in truth,

Birmingham equally boring. That is bad for business. Now Monaco is different. Monaco equals motor racing, on the very streets. Glamour and class adhere in an instant. Birmingham is renowned for an image of glamour and class.

Martin Howe was the man who came up with the notion originally in 1970. He has a disconcerting habit of making all kinds of flimsy little facts to make the race suitable for racing: removing traffic islands, shifting kerbs, throwing up temporary barriers. Crash barriers would obviously be erected along with catch fences and screens the total cost of the improvements is reckoned at £1.5 million. But the race is seen as a long-term profit-maker.

The city cannot kick off with Formula One racing: two international events must be staged before an application to stage a Formula One Grand Prix can be even considered. The plan is to start with a programme of international championship events.

"It is not our aim to take over the British Grand Prix," Howe said. "That is just a jolly good and quick thing. But there is a place for it. Last year the British Grand Prix attracted 161,000 people over three days. Last summer our On the Streets rally attracted in a single afternoon 200,000 people. The race will be more than anything else to put over the image of Birmingham as a glamorous and exciting place."

Glamorous Birmingham remains a hard idea to take. It is a 180-degree corner for most of us: can we handle that much torque? "People come back from Monaco and say 'I drove the circuit'," Howe said. "I believe it will not be long before they say the same thing of Birmingham."

RUGBY UNION: COLOURFUL AUSTRALIANS CHOOSE 37-YEAR-OLD

## Australians go all sentimental

By David Hands  
Rugby Correspondent

The Australians, showing a welcome sentimentality, have included in the side to play the Barbarians at Cardiff tomorrow, those senior players who, for various reasons, missed selection for the internationals on the current tour.

They include Hawker, Cox Roche (who played against Ireland), Reynolds, and the engine, Lydell, who at 37, does not expect to be touring for his country again. However, this does restore to the side all but two of the players who ran New Zealand close in three internationals during the summer.

The first exception is Moon, the left wing, who broke his arm playing against England and returned home last month. Campese moves to that wing, and Hawker, normally a centre and used much on this tour as a stand-off half, plays on the right, leaving untried, but a fruitful partnership with Slack in the centre.

The other omission is that of Rodriguez, who has had such an outstanding year in Australian colours. Pilecki is his replacement, and the only slight regret is that as Reynolds is to play, there is no place for the outstanding young No 8, Tynman. Not that he will mind; his tour deeds speak for themselves.

AUSTRALIANS: R. Gould, M. Hawker, A. Slack (captain), M. Lydell, D. Campese, M. Ede, P. Cox, S. Pilecki, T. Lydell, M. Reynolds, S. Williams, S. Carter, C. Roche, R. Reynolds, E. Rodriguez, W. Campbell, S. Tynman.

## British gallery seeks recovery of lost art

By Gerald Davies

I doubt very much whether rugby held much charm for Neville Cardus. But a good deal of what he perceived to be the essence of his game's character and the variety of its appeal, can often be seen in rugby.

"Go among the shilling crowd and fine day," he once wrote of the Oval, "and what do you hear? Little technical jargon, little talk of off-breaks and the position of the left foot, but a lot of talk about the 'funnybone' in the left arm. No, the funnybone is in the right arm."

Colin Deans, the Scotland hooker has pulled out of the Barbarians team he was to lead against Australia in the final match of their tour at Cardiff tomorrow.

He is replaced by Mike Watkins, but a new Barbarians captain has still to be named.

overall effect was what mattered to him: the completeness of the beautiful stroke.

And I do not suppose that the shoulder or the exact spacing of the feet in the ruck matters much to the man standing on the "hammer" bank at St Helens or, away from the coastal belt, in Eugene Cross Park. Although there is the tackle he can savour and the sinister magic of the sidestep, it is the general impression that appeals.

The art of any game is to conceal the artifice; not to give the game away by showing your intentions. The player's art, like the actor's art, should not reveal the energy and the thought, the sweat and the spit, and the theory that has gone on into rehearsal. Not about the angry surface from beneath the skin.

## Trent's and the Ley's perfect term

By Michael Stevenson

Trent College have finished the term unbeaten, the first time that this has been achieved since 1932, when Prince Oblemsky was in the team. This autumn, Trent have registered 14 wins from 14 matches (the 1932 team drew one), scoring 331 points and conceding 107.

Their last match, against Worcester, was played in front of a considerable crowd: Trent won 62-15, scoring 11 tries, with Doleman, who has himself scored 157 points this season, contributing a try, two penalties and five conversions.

The Ley's school have flourished just as impressively, with 14 wins from as many matches and 344 points to 98 conceded. Their most recent victories were against Bedford Modern (19-3) and Bishop's Stortford (15-10).

The Ley's outstanding player and captain, their No 8, White, was injured against Bedford. The fly-half, Bailey, took over and scored all 15 points against Bishop's Stortford.

The Armdale School from New South Wales, who are coached by John Hipwell, have had a very successful tour. They beat Gordonstoun, Royal High School, Dunsannon and Christ's College, Brecon before going down to St Michael's, Dublin. They have recently visited Rugby where a delightful second-half display brought them victory (27-6) and MHL Hill, where they lost 24-10.

In spite of injury problems, Glenamole were victorious in both their southern matches, beating Marlborough on Monday (15-11) and Tonbridge on Wednesday (13-7).

The English road into Europe turned into a Bulgarian cul-de-sac last weekend, when Capital City Spiders and Hillingdon Ladies were comprehensively knocked out of the European Champions' Cup by the greater strength of CSKA Sofia and Levski Spartak. Spiders and Hillingdon still manage to win a set over the two legs.

In the English League, sponsored by Brivvic, the first division leaders, Speedwell Rucanor, went down to Redwood Lodge, from Bristol, in five sets. Redwood were disrupted midway through the match when their setter Gary Jeffries had to leave to attend his firm's Christmas dinner. He had paid for the tickets and did not want to waste them.

The reserve setter, Peter Phillips, stepped in. Redwood lost the fourth set but reorganised themselves to take the deciding set. Jeffries has been dropped for this weekend's match with Leeds and Phillips kept his place. The reaction of the rest of the Redwood players to Jeffries' departure was "unprintable", said Keith Nicholls, their coach.

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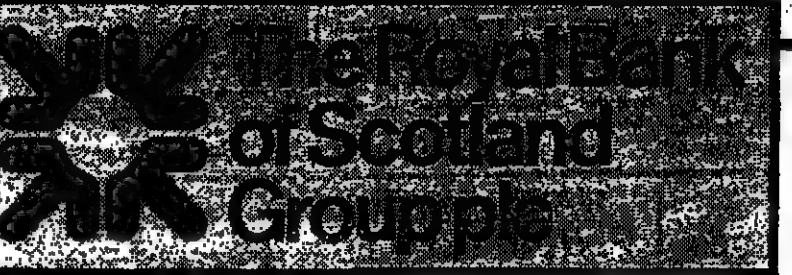
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In an exciting year we achieved record profits of £131.3 million before tax, 37% higher than last year. These profits do not include any of the anticipated savings which will be made following the merger of our operating banks in late 1985.

## Record profits as we move towards merger

Sir Michael Harris, Chairman

Group Operations. We have achieved significant growth in all areas with domestic banking the major contributor to the very satisfactory results. It has been most encouraging that a large proportion of the increase in the number of current accounts is attributable to our decision to offer free banking throughout the Group for personal accounts in credit. This facility has been offered for some years by Williams & Glyn's Bank and has proved to be an outstanding success. It has now been extended to The Royal Bank of Scotland and we are confident that it will be particularly attractive to personal customers. On the lending side, both banks increased their involvement in the home mortgage market, while at the same time we achieved significant growth in consumer lending. Earnings from commissions and fees have continued to show a good increase. During the year our stake in Lloyds and Scottish plc was sold for £91.6 million.

The Future. We shall be seeking constantly to diversify our activities. For example, we have already submitted an application to allow us to provide car insurance through our own wholly-owned insurance company and we hope to sell our first policies early in the new year. The results achieved this year demonstrate our success in developing our business and improving profitability and balance sheet strength as we work steadily towards our merger. We are confident that we shall continue to build on the sound foundations for the future established by our two existing banks and to expand still further the business of the new Royal Bank of Scotland in the years ahead.

	Year ended 30 Sept 1984	Year ended 30 Sept 1983	Change
Profit before taxation	£131.5m	£95.5m	+37%
Total assets	£13,386m	£11,077m	+21%
Dividends per 25p ordinary share	8.5p	7.4p	+15%

Copies of the 1984 Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc, 38 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc







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Former world  
champion  
gets drubbing

CRICKET



Indians rejoicing. Gating agonising as the ball spins back on to his wicket

# Robinson gives England a chance to overtake India

England lost the wicket of Fowler as Gating charged in the second Test here yesterday as they started their reply to India's first innings of 307. After tea, though, an obstinate third-wicket stand between Robinson and Lamb developed and left the game delicately poised as the players took the rest day today. England were 107 for two wickets by the close after Robinson, with an unbeaten 53, enhanced his growing reputation.

There has still been no hint of unreliability in the pitch's behaviour, though its possible deterioration will haunt England in the next 48 hours. Having their opponents reeling at 140 for six, England might well rue their inability to bring India's innings to a more rapid end.

Robinson has battled through 46 overs with a confidence and maturity which has visibly improved almost innately by innings. Long before he was making room to score against Yadav and Sivaramakrishnan, the leg spinner, was treated respectfully, the Nottinghamshire opening batsman did not seem to have problems against him. Lamb, concentrating after his run of low scores, pulled a loose ball early on from Sivaramakrishnan for four, but otherwise got his head down.

India's innings was prolonged until a further 99 runs had been added to their overnight 203 for six wickets. Not often in Test cricket does it happen that a team's last four wickets more than double the score, but India now did it for the second Test match in succession. Every member of this Indian side, though, has a first class century to his name.

Sivaramakrishnan quickly forced Ellison, who had bowled without strength his offside field placements. He and Yadav added 49, only two runs short of the Indian test record against England. The morning period of play and the evening match have been giving for England, who knew that every run conceded could come home to roost in the later stages.

Kirmani, Yadav, early in his Test, and Prabhakar, all rode their luck a little, but England also failed

# Hollinshead colt can help to end gloomy spell for O'Neill

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Out Of The Gloom should prove a singularly well-named number of the Shire Novices' Hurdle at Doncaster this afternoon. A winning ride on Reg Hollinshead's three-year-old would be a welcome shot in the arm for John O'Neill, who has no reason to remember this season with affection, so far, having first dislocated his hip at Chesham in October and then broken an arm at Wetherby four weeks later.

A decent horse on the flat - he won the Melrose Handicap at York's Ebor meeting in August - Out Of The Gloom made a pleasing debut under National Hunt rules when he finished third, far from the Asot last month.

Being such an out-and-out stayer on the flat, he should relish today's distance of 2½ miles and he is preferred to the recent Wetherby winner, Noholmud, Quiet Fall and John Franco's mount.

Franco's long journey north from Lambourn should not go unrewarded, however, as he appears to have an excellent chance of winning the Sea Pigeon Handicap Hurdle on Rhythmic Pastimes, especially now that Peter Easterby has decided to run Comedy Fair instead of the much-improved Jobroke.

Far Bridge, who has defeated Little Bay twice over two miles at Sandown this season, in-

# McCain eyes National again after Kumbi's clear victory

Donald McCain, who sent out Red Rum for a record-breaking three wins and two seconds in the Grand National, has Aintree in mind for Kumbi, an easy winner of the Burnley Handicap Chase at Haydock Park yesterday.

McCain was bubbling with enthusiasm after Kumbi had taken over from Cottage Rhythm at the final fence of the 3½ miles to win by seven lengths.

McCain said: "I was running him previously over 2½ miles when the horse won the Burnley Handicap. Now I'm running him in the Welsh National at Chepstow on Saturday week, have a good rest, and I'll bring him back in the spring for a Grand National preparation, with a race here and there in between."

Ladbrokes make Kumbi 16-1 for the Welsh National and 25-1 for Aintree. McCain, who has backed his horse at 50-1 for the latter, said: "My horse was going very well at Aintree last March but lost Kevin Doolan at the nineteenth fence."

Doolan, who joined McCain last November, was a recommendation of John O'Neill, rode a well judged race yesterday and again has the mount at Chepstow where the nine-year-old is an easy winner with no penalty for yesterday's win.

O'Neill made his comeback half an hour earlier than expected in the Widnes Selling Hurdle. The former champion, out of the subject of a broken arm since Wetherby on November 2, had expected to



Donald McCain: has another National prospect in Kumbi

resume in the last race but picked up a spare ride on Martin Phipps' Harlow Mill. There was no happy return for O'Neill however, because Harlow Mill was in last place when pulled up.

The five-length winner was Randomly, an ex-Irish gelding having his first race in this country for David Mortill, whose Rachel's form, however, was the subject of a bookmaker's inquiry after being backed from 14-1 to 4-1 and

winning at Wolverhampton on November 7.

Bookmakers took no chances this time and the first price chalked up was 3-1 with Randomly finishing 2-1 favourite. Connections had to go to 6,000 guineas to buy their winner in.

Mortill said: "I have 14 horses and that's my third winner this season. They've all won first time out. Randomly ran second in a hurdle race in Ireland and is not a bad little sort. He stays well, and could improve enough to go for a long-distance novice hurdle."

Craig Thornton, aged 18, had his first win in this country on his second ride when bringing Cool Magic four lengths clear in the Burnley Handicap Chase. But it was a lucky win as Cool Magic was only third when the leader, Inking, and second, Golden Knoll, fell at the final fence.

Thornton, who has ridden nine winners in New Zealand, is the son of an Auckland farmer and is riding here until March, mainly for David Barons and Stan Mellor.

Kevinfort, who landed the odds in Southwell's Christmas Tree Handicap Chase with Mark Dwyer looking round, is named to meet a jockey and a strong horse, by his trainer, Jimmy Fitzgerald, who is already thinking in terms of Verpoort's Whitbread Trophy, formerly the trophy for the year's best amateur, as a choice of engagements at Christmas.

# Aintree stand damaged by fire

An investigation team yesterday sifted through the wreckage of the historic County Stand at Aintree after a fire broke out late on Wednesday night.

The full extent of the damage became apparent at first light. The ground floor reception area of the 100-year-old building had been badly burnt along about a third of the 500ft length of the stand. However, next year's Grand National is not in doubt.

The first floor of the timber-framed building suffered no water damage as 40 firemen battled

to have started in the Lawn Bar on the ground floor, is still a mystery. Merseyside police have been called in to the investigation but the cause of the fire is not yet known. It was started deliberately.

Officials at the scene could find no trace of a forced entry to the building. Workmen had been on site for the previous two days making preparations for next year's Grand National. The stand was due to be closed and rebuilt after next year's meeting.

## DONCASTER

GOING: good to firm.

2.15 SEA PIGEON HANDICAP HURDLE (22.500: 2m 150yd) (11)

1.15 SAUCY KIT NOVICE HURDLE (3-y-o: £1,838: 2m 40) (12)

1.45 RED ALLIATOR HANDICAP CHASE (23,000: 2m 40) (8)

12.30 SHIRLEY NOVICE CHASE (Div 1: £1,225: 2m) (13 runners)

1.0 HAMPTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: 3-y-o: £555: 2m) (25)

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12.30 SHIRLEY NOVICE CHASE (Div 1: £1,225: 2m) (13 runners)

1.0 HAMPTON NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1: 3-y-o: £555: 2m) (25)

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## Haydock results

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1.00 HURDLE (2m 150yd) (11)

1.15 SAUCY KIT NOVICE HURDLE (3-y-o: £1,838: 2m 40) (12)

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## Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Daville

## BBC 1

- 6.00 **Casualty** AM.
- 6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Nick Ross. News from Debbie Rex at 6.30; 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; plus local news and weather at 8.45; 9.15, 9.45 and 10.15; programme choice at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; Alan Titchmarsh's gardening advice at 7.35; plus John Smith's review of the pop music scene; Lynn Faulds Wood's consumer file; and Glynis Christian's best of Christmas bargains.
- 9.00 **Lynda Marshall's Everyday** Lynda Marshall and Lesley Tesson (R).
- 9.10 **Masquerade**. The final of the 12th series, presented by Magnus Magnusson on board HMS Hermes in Portsmouth. Jill Goodwin answers questions on the lives of Charles II and James II. Richard O'Carroll on the Great Eastern Railway 1862-1922; Kate Vernon-Parry on the life and work of Arthur Haneson (R); 9.45: **Only the Best** (R); 10.30 **Play School** (R); 10.50 **Casualty**.
- 12.30 **News Afternoon** with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. The weather details come from Ian McCall. 12.57 **Regional News** London and SE only. Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 **Pebble Mill** at One includes Peter Seabrook's gardening advice, 1.45: **Life Mosaic** and the **Wider World** (R); 2.00 **Day Out**. Gwyn Richards in Tewkesbury on the junction of the river Avon and Severn in Gloucestershire, the site of the battle that ended the War of the Roses.
- 2.30 **Film: Obliging Young Lady** (1941) starring Edmund O'Brien and Eve Arden. Romantic comedy about a reporter and a girl who meets on a station platform. Directed by Richard Wallace. 3.45 **Regional News** (not London).
- 3.50 **Play School**, presented by Carol Leader. 4.10 **The Family**. 4.15 **Jackanory**. David Lee reads the first part of *The Cuckoo's Nest*. 4.30 **Benji**, Zax and the Alien Planet.
- 4.50 **Harriet**. Tony Hart and Gabriella Bradshaw make pictures from print books. 5.15 **Cockatoo** presented by Stu Francis. 5.58 **Weather**.
- 6.00 **News**.
- 6.55 **Cartoon Plus**.
- 7.00 **News**. 7.15 **Black**. Len Dawson's panel the week consists of Jimmy Crichton, Bella Emberg, Sarah Greene, Mike Nolan, Duncan Norville and June Whitfield.
- 7.35 **What a Carry On**. A completion of the runner scenes from the successful Carry On series of films.
- 8.05 **Bergerac**. Jeremy's first major professional trial is threatened when Bergerac is forced to arrest one of the boxers. Starring John Nettles (R) (Contex).
- 9.00 **News** with Julia Somerville.
- 9.25 **Stars and Stripes**. Part two of *Set Up* in which an assassin has gunned down a pregnant woman. A man has surrendered to the police but nothing about him seems to check out (R).
- 10.15 **International Show Jumping**. David Vine introduces the Cognate Convictor/ Napoleon Stakes, from the Grand Hall, Olympia. The commentators are Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hatley.
- 11.25 **James Last** in Scotland, introduced by Ken Bruce. Mr Last's Orchestra recorded at the Royal Albert Hall, Edinburgh, and on Glenageary and St Andrews golf courses.
- 12.15 **Weather**.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/228m; 108.9kHz/275m; Radio 2: 89.3kHz/433m; 90.9kHz/330m; Radio 3: 121.5kHz/247m VHF 90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF 92-95; LBC 115.2kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 154.8kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 145.8kHz/200m; VHF 94.9; World Service FM 64.8kHz/483m.

## TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30; 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.30 and 9.00; guests, Robert Hardy and Max Bygraves, from 8.45; exercises at 8.45 and 8.55; the day's anniversaries at 8.51; Jan Walsh with advice on Christmas gifts at 7.10 and 8.47; pop video at 8.15; Jenni Barnett's postbag at 8.15; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.45; Christmas holiday breaks in England at 9.05.

## ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **For Schools: Tomorrow's People**. 9.47 **How We Used to Live**. 10.09 **Ways With Words**. 10.28 **People and Politics**. Does Parliament have the final word? 10.48 **Who cares about local councils?** 11.10 **Playtime**.
- 11.25 **Let's Pretend** to the tale of The Hippo, the Peacock and the Gnat. 11.40 **Monocart** (R). 11.50 **Play School** (R).
- 12.00 **Teletime and Claudia**. The last programme in the series for the very young (R). 12.10 **Redbus**. Learning with puppets and games. John Styles (Oracle). 12.30 **Never Too Early, Never Too Late**. Education from the point of view of the consumer (Oracle).
- 1.00 **News at One**. 1.20 **Thames news** with Steve Clarke.
- 1.30 **Film: Showdown at Abilene** (1956) starring Jack Palance. A former sheriff returns home after service in the Civil War to find his town has changed and his life has changed. Directed by Charles Frazee. 3.00 **University Challenge**. Magdalen College, Oxford, against the Open University. The first semi-final. 3.25 **Thames news headlines**. 3.30 **Soots and Daughters**.
- 4.00 **Rainbow**. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10. 4.20 **Wit Cwec Cwec**. Tales of a duck who is always in trouble. 4.25 **The Wind in the Willows**. Rat and Mole find something they have never dreamed of. 4.50 **Musons**. Fergus Roy investigates how magicians make use of fire, air and water. 5.15 **Blockbusters**.
- 5.45 **News**. 6.00 **The 6 O'Clock Show**. Michael Aspel and his team take a light-hearted look at London life.
- 7.00 **Alvin**. Stringfellow and Dominic are hired as stunt men for a film about the theft of gold bullion. Unknown to them the film is a front for a real robbery (R).
- 8.00 **Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right**. Game show in which competitors test their knowledge of public opinion and their luck at the turn of a card.
- 8.30 **Halfpenny Comedy** series starring Thora Hird as Salvation Army Captain Emily Riddle (Oracle).
- 9.00 **En Brian**. It's a Whopper. Comedy drama series about the members of a Midlands course angling club (Oracle).
- 10.00 **News at Ten**.
- 10.30 **The London Programme**, presented by John Taylor, examines the re-selection problems faced by a number of London Labour MPs including Peter Shore in Bethnal Green and Sam Silkin in Deptford.
- 11.00 **Snooker**. A semi-final match in the Holford's World Doubles Championship.
- 12.15 **Live from London**. The Belle Stars in concert.
- 1.15 **Spy**. Spoof secret agent series set in the Far East starring Robert Culp and Bill Cosby (R).
- 2.05 **Night Thoughts** from Dr Sheila Cassidy.



Lesley Abde: panelist on Any Questions? (Radio 4, 8.45pm)

## BBC 2

- 9.00 **Casualty**.
- 9.45 **Film: Joan of Paris** (1942) starring Paul Harrod and Michelle Morgan. French Resistance drama about a Free Frenchman, Paul Lavalier, of the RAF's Squadron 701, who is forced to bail out of his plane into occupied France along with four of his comrades. They head for Paris in anticipation of being put in touch with an escape route back to England. Directed by Robert Stevenson.
- 5.15 **News summary** with subtitles.
- 5.20 **Open to Question**, presented by Hilary O'Neill and Michael Macfarlane. Seventy young people, drawn from nine schools all over Scotland, question the school's leader, Arthur Scargill (see Choice).
- 6.00 **The Invaders**. Science fiction serial. Tonight's episode: David Vincent, after weeks of careful observation of aliens at a huge complex, obtains a computer tape of extra-terrestrial origin. Starring Roy Thomas and guest Ed Bradley.
- 6.50 **Choir of the Year 1984**. The first semi-final of the competition and six choirs compete for three places in the final.
- 7.30 **Three in the Wild**. The sixth and final film of the series and the second one on Toran, the Dartmoor park.
- 8.00 **Call My Bluff**. Frank Muir with Joanne Lumley and John Dunn challenges Arthur Marshall and his team of five. 8.15 **Blockbusters**.
- 8.30 **Italiani: The Sister of Spoleto**. The story of Sister Genoveffa Calvi, a nun for 35 years, who entered a convent against her father's wishes. Today she is a novice mistress with six young girls in her charge. See Choice.
- 9.00 **M.A.S.H.** Charles is made charity collection officer but bribes police to take over. Thus begins a passing the buck exercise that ends with a rather close Fr Mucary.
- 9.25 **News**. 9.45 **Portrait of Dario Fo**. A profile of the celebrated Italian playwright whose political affiliations had, until recently, prevented his entry into the United States. He is filmed working with students and performing at the Venice Carnival his hilarious one-man show, *Mistero Buffo* (R).
- 10.15 **Very Exceptional Soldiers**. Veterans of the opening campaign of the First World War recall their experiences on the battlefield.
- 10.45 **Newsnight**.
- 11.30 **Film: Two Weeks in Another Town** (1962) starring Kirk Douglas, Cyd Charisse and Edward G. Robinson. The story of a has-been actor, living in Rome, who wants to make a comeback. Charisse plays his ex-wife and Edward G. a film director having trouble with his latest epic. Directed by Vincent Minnelli. Ends at 1.30.

## CHANNEL 4

- 2.30 **Snooker**. The opening frames in a best-of-five-final of the Holford's World Doubles Championship.
- 4.30 **Countdown**. The second quarter-final four times winner Colin Pearce, the number two seed, against the 2001. Lesley Abde who has won twice.
- 5.00 **The Addams Family**. Morticia asks the rest of her family to part with treasured objects in order that they may be auctioned for her favourite charity.
- 5.30 **The Tube**, presented by Joie Holland and Paula Yates. Includes music from Les "Scratch" Perry, the Council Collective, Danielle Dix, Play Dead and the Greatest Show on Legs. There is a film of Prince in concert: a video of Bob Dylan; and a special edition of *Question Time* including an interview with Vanity and archive film of some of the Motown greats. Plus Jimmy Fallon in the studio.
- 7.00 **Channel Four News**, with Trevor McDonald, includes a report from Lawrence McGilly on the findings of British specialists on the controversial ultra sound scanning of pregnant women.
- 7.30 **Right to Reply**, presented by Gae Macdonald. A working miner from South Yorkshire and a viewer from Hertfordshire complain about the People's Party.
- 8.00 **What the Papers Say**. Jimmy Reid, once a vociferous trade unionist, now a freelance journalist, casts a critical eye over how the Press has treated the week's news.
- 8.15 **A Week in Politics**. Peter Dinklage, a former Labour MP, introduces a series of reports on the Conservative Party's changing views on unemployment; and Brian Jay interviews Leon Brittan.
- 9.00 **Tell the Truth**. Giles Brundrett, Brian Hayes, Gloria Hunniford and Debbie Rice have to discover who of three guests has a genuine claim to fame.
- 9.30 **In Search of Paradise**. The history of gardens continues with a comparison of French formal gardens like Versailles and the British landscaped gardens such as those at Chatsworth (R).
- 10.00 **Newhart**. American comedy series starring Bob Newhart.
- 10.30 **Just Sex**. The final programme of the series examines the attitudes to sex have changed over the past century.
- 11.20 **Film: Don's Party** (1976) starring Ray Barrett. Black comedy about the guests at a party thrown by a supporter of the Australian Labor Party in anticipation of Scott Whitman triumphing in the 1980 general election. Directed by Bruce Beresford.
- 1.00 **Closedown**.

## CHOICE

While the nun counters social unrest through prayer and counsel, the actor exorcises Italy's ill-fated through laughter. Dennis Marks' film examines the medieval roots of the stage technique and features extracts from *Mistero Buffo*, a petro-bomb monologue hurled at religious and political leaders. Both films are gilded by the beauty of the language bubbling under the subtitles.

Produced by BBC Scotland (who showed it first), *OPEN TO QUESTION* (8.30pm) is a cross between *Question Time* and the old Val Singleton children's show *V.L.P.*, allowing those below voting age to grill, roast or reverse the celebrated. This week's guest, Arthur Scargill, faces questions

fired with a partially which would lose Sirs Alistair and Robin their jobs. "You and your friends..." "As a Communist, Mr Scargill..." The discussion mines no new seams of inquiry but provides a reiteration of the Scargill positions and the attitudes of a section of the next but one electorate.

On an empty-shelfed night of television scheduling, Radio 5's *BROOKHOUSE REACT* (7.00pm) shines more invitingly than ever. As the shade of the dead composer, Mendel, observing the pitiful fumbblings of mortals, David de Keyser's voice is a cocktail of sardonic wit and God giving a press conference after the events in the Garden of Eden.

Mark Lawson

## Radio 4

- On long wave, 1 stereo on VHF.
- 5.55 **Shipping**. 6.00 **News Briefing**. 6.10 **Shipping**. 6.15 **Shipping**. 6.20 **Shipping**. 6.25 **Shipping**. 6.30 **Shipping**. 6.35 **Shipping**. 6.40 **Shipping**. 6.45 **Shipping**. 6.50 **Shipping**. 6.55 **Shipping**. 7.00 **Shipping**. 7.05 **Shipping**. 7.10 **Shipping**. 7.15 **Shipping**. 7.20 **Shipping**. 7.25 **Shipping**. 7.30 **Shipping**. 7.35 **Shipping**. 7.40 **Shipping**. 7.45 **Shipping**. 7.50 **Shipping**. 7.55 **Shipping**. 8.00 **Shipping**. 8.05 **Shipping**. 8.10 **Shipping**. 8.15 **Shipping**. 8.20 **Shipping**. 8.25 **Shipping**. 8.30 **Shipping**. 8.35 **Shipping**. 8.40 **Shipping**. 8.45 **Shipping**. 8.50 **Shipping**. 8.55 **Shipping**. 9.00 **Shipping**. 9.05 **Shipping**. 9.10 **Shipping**. 9.15 **Shipping**. 9.20 **Shipping**. 9.25 **Shipping**. 9.30 **Shipping**. 9.35 **Shipping**. 9.40 **Shipping**. 9.45 **Shipping**. 9.50 **Shipping**. 9.55 **Shipping**. 10.00 **Shipping**. 10.05 **Shipping**. 10.10 **Shipping**. 10.15 **Shipping**. 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